

American GirlTM

September/October 2005

\$4.50

How to Help
a **Friend**

Cute **Hairstyles**
You Can Do

Tackle Your
Teacher Troubles

Take a School
Quiz!

Plus!
Two stories
written by girls
like you!

2 Letters from You

3 Girls Express

8 Contest

Ha-Ha Halloween!

10 Heart to Heart

Teacher Troubles

12 Friendship Matters

How to Help a Friend

14 Style It!

19 Cool Schools

24 Craft

Funky Pumpkins

26 Quiz!

Project Smarts

30 Story Contest

Winners

38 BrainWaves

43 Mini Mag

45 Posters

47 Help!

49 Behind the Scenes

Plus: AG's Funky Faces

See AG Online!

Visit americangirl.com
to peek behind the scenes
of AG magazine!

Always get a parent's permission
before surfing the Web or giving out
your full name, address, or any
other personal info.

Funky Pumpkins

Mix and match to make
silly jack-o'-lanterns!

24



Style It!

Five fun fall hairdos
you'll love to try

14



Contents

Proud to Be an American Girl!™



Ha-Ha Halloween!

See the kooky winners of our costume contest.

8

Project Smarts

Find creative project ideas that fit your style!

26



About the Cover

Meet Bailey K., age 10. We asked her a few questions about school.

Do you do anything special on the first day of school?

I wear a fancy hairdo.

What's in your dream school lunch?

Cheese pizza, root beer, and an ice cream bar.

What's your favorite school subject?

Writing. I love to use my imagination.

Bailey K.

To see more pictures from our photo shoot, go to "Behind the Scenes" on page 49.



Letters from You



Worry-Free

The "Are You a Big Worrier?" quiz in May/June 2005 was great. My bat mitzvah is soon, and I worry about it because I'm scared of messing up and being laughed at. You gave me some good ideas, like to remember that it's O.K. to make mistakes—everyone does!

Samantha S.
Age 12, New York



Family Fun

I'm glad you put the "Pop and Mom Quiz" in May/June. I found that I didn't know a lot about my parents, and it was fun learning new things about them.

Erin O.
Age 14, Washington

Room Redesign



I loved "Redo Your Room" in May/June. I wanted to redo my room, but I could never decide on a theme. I'm looking forward to redoing my room with Mom and turning it into "Preppy in Pink." Thank you for the idea!

Michelle B.
Age 11, Georgia



Write to Us!

Want to drop us a line? Write us at:

American Girl magazine

8400 Fairway Place
Middleton, WI 53562

You can also send letters via e-mail to im_agmag_editor@americangirl.com. Either way, be sure to include your first and last name and your birth date. We can't use every letter we receive, but we read and learn from each one.

Win It!

On page 6, you'll read about our latest Win It! contest. Enter by sending your first and last name and your address by October 15 to:

Win It!—S/O 05
American Girl magazine
8400 Fairway Place
Middleton, WI 53562



Official Rules

1. Drawing not open to families of employees of American Girl and its affiliates.
2. Only one entry per family.
3. To be valid, all entries must be received by mail by October 15, 2005. Entries may not be faxed or e-mailed.
4. All entries become the property of American Girl and will not be returned.
5. Void where prohibited by law.



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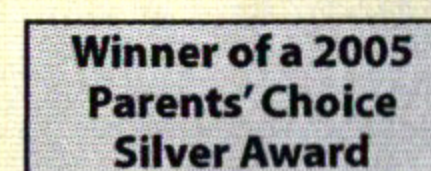
COVER CREDITS: Wardrobe styling: Judy Redder. Hair: Cindy Stutzel. Tank top and sweater: Shy Girl. Jacket: Sally Mack. Skirt: Children's Place. Necklace: Claire's. OTHER CREDITS: GIRLS EXPRESS "IN THE LOOP"—Shirt: Sally Mack. Sweater: Tractor. Jeans: Too Shy. STYLE IT!—Argyle sweater: Betsey & Babs.

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American Girl™

Girls

E X P R E S S

Back-to-Class Bash

Get your pals together for some fun to celebrate the school year.

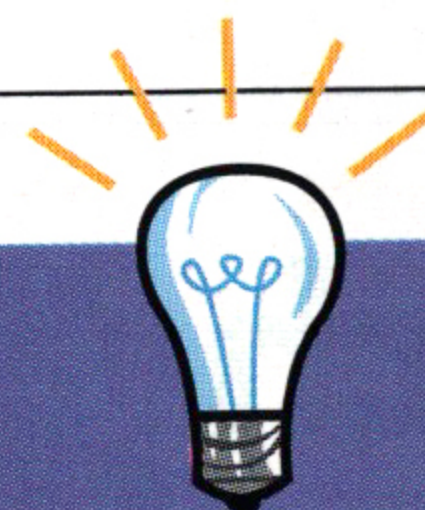
Have a **clothing swap**. Clean out your closet, and trade away the clothes you don't wear anymore. The "new" gear you'll get will **freshen up** your wardrobe. (Make sure you check with a parent before you trade your stuff.)



Take **pictures** with your pals and use them to decorate your locker or notebooks. Make photo frames out of cute paper. Seal the photos and frames to your **notebook** covers with strips of packing tape, or hang them in your locker with magnets.



Decorate plain brown bags to jazz up your lunches. Use markers, stickers, sequins, **glitter glue**—anything that adds pizzazz!



Did You Know?

You'll flip for these fun facts!

Read All About It

September is Library Card Sign-up Month. Do you have your card? Check with your local library to get one. Many libraries today offer CDs and movies as well as books to check out, and most have computers you can use. The best part? It's usually free!

Buzzword



Ruckus

How to say it: RUHK-iss

What it means: Disturbance or commotion

One way to use it: When her hamster got loose in the house, Kelsey caused a ruckus trying to catch it.



The buzzword is tucked into this issue of *American Girl*. Can you find it? The answer is on page 42.




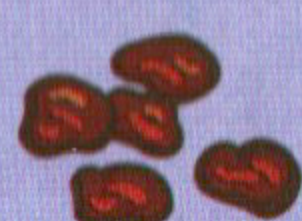
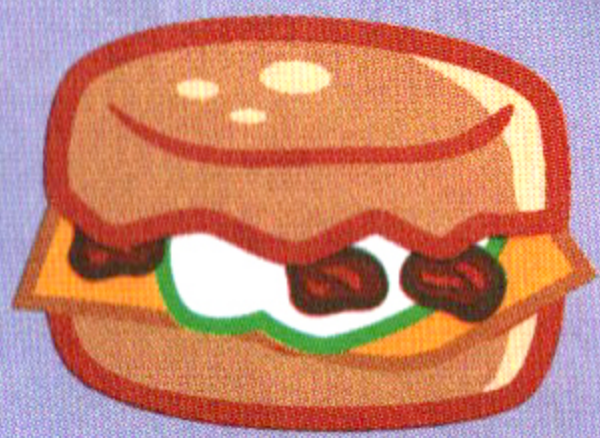
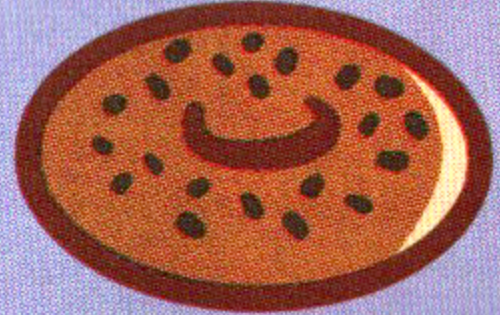

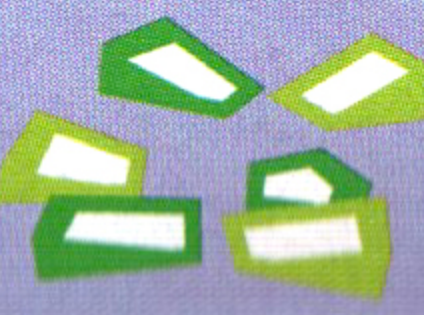







Find It!



Look for fun facts sprinkled throughout the magazine!

Lunch Box

Add crunch to sandwiches with fresh apples.

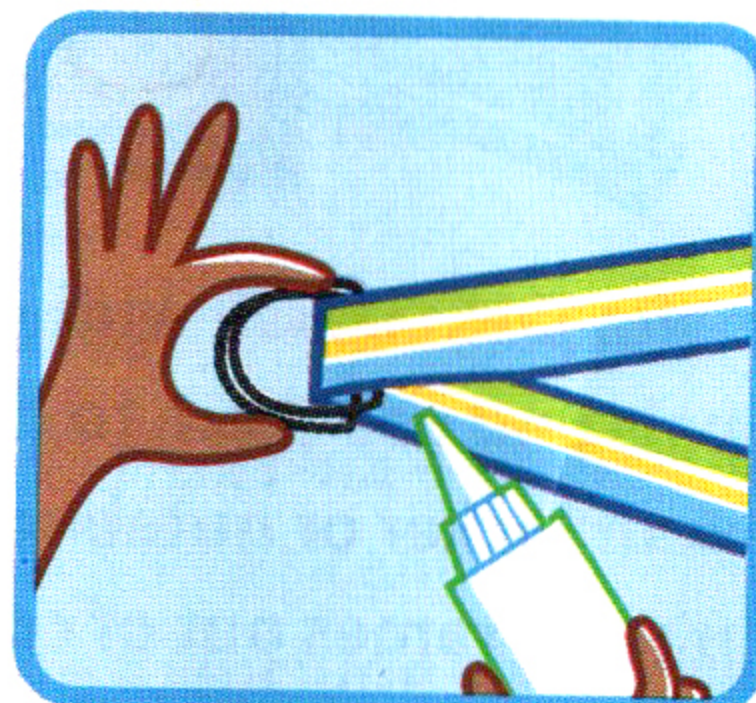
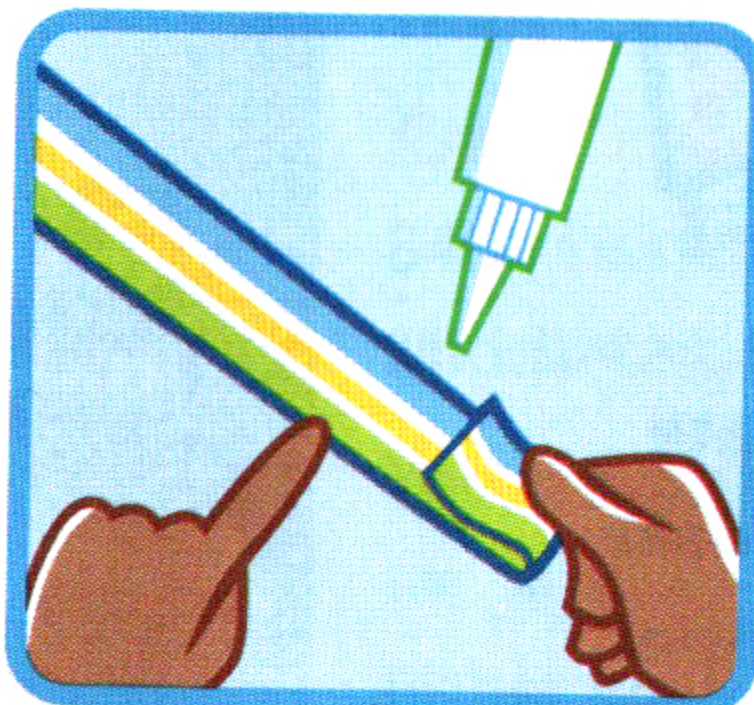
	+		+		+		=		Easy Cheesy
	+		+		+		=		Creamy Dreamy
	+		+		+		=		Nutty Buddy

In the Loop

Dress up an old outfit with a quick and cute ribbon belt.

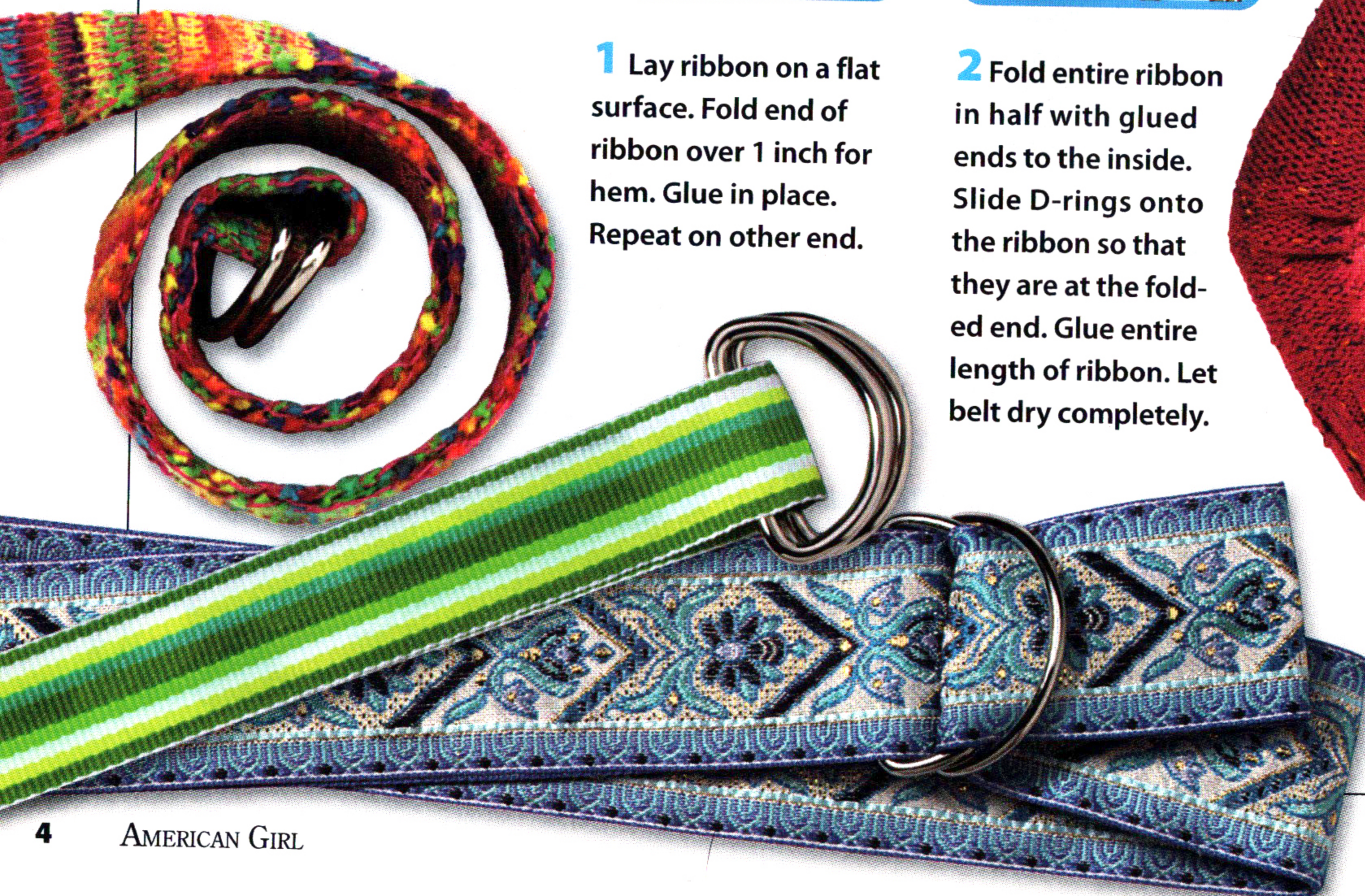
YOU WILL NEED

- * 2 yards of ribbon, 1 to 2 inches wide
- * Fabric glue
- * 2 D-rings (available at fabric stores)



1 Lay ribbon on a flat surface. Fold end of ribbon over 1 inch for hem. Glue in place. Repeat on other end.

2 Fold entire ribbon in half with glued ends to the inside. Slide D-rings onto the ribbon so that they are at the folded end. Glue entire length of ribbon. Let belt dry completely.



What's the Word?

We asked a reader to review this new combination lock.

"Instead of numbers, the Wordlock uses letters to create a word combination. That's what I liked most—it's easier for me to remember a word than a number. Changing the combination for the first time was challenging, but I got the hang of it quickly."



Wordlock,
\$5.99 each



Ellen S.
Age 13, Ohio

True Story

Leah L. started her own magazine!



Dear American Girl,
I've always loved writing, drawing, and photography, and one day I came up with the idea for a magazine that would be for Jewish girls like me. When I was 12, I mapped out a table of contents and created the logo for my dream magazine.

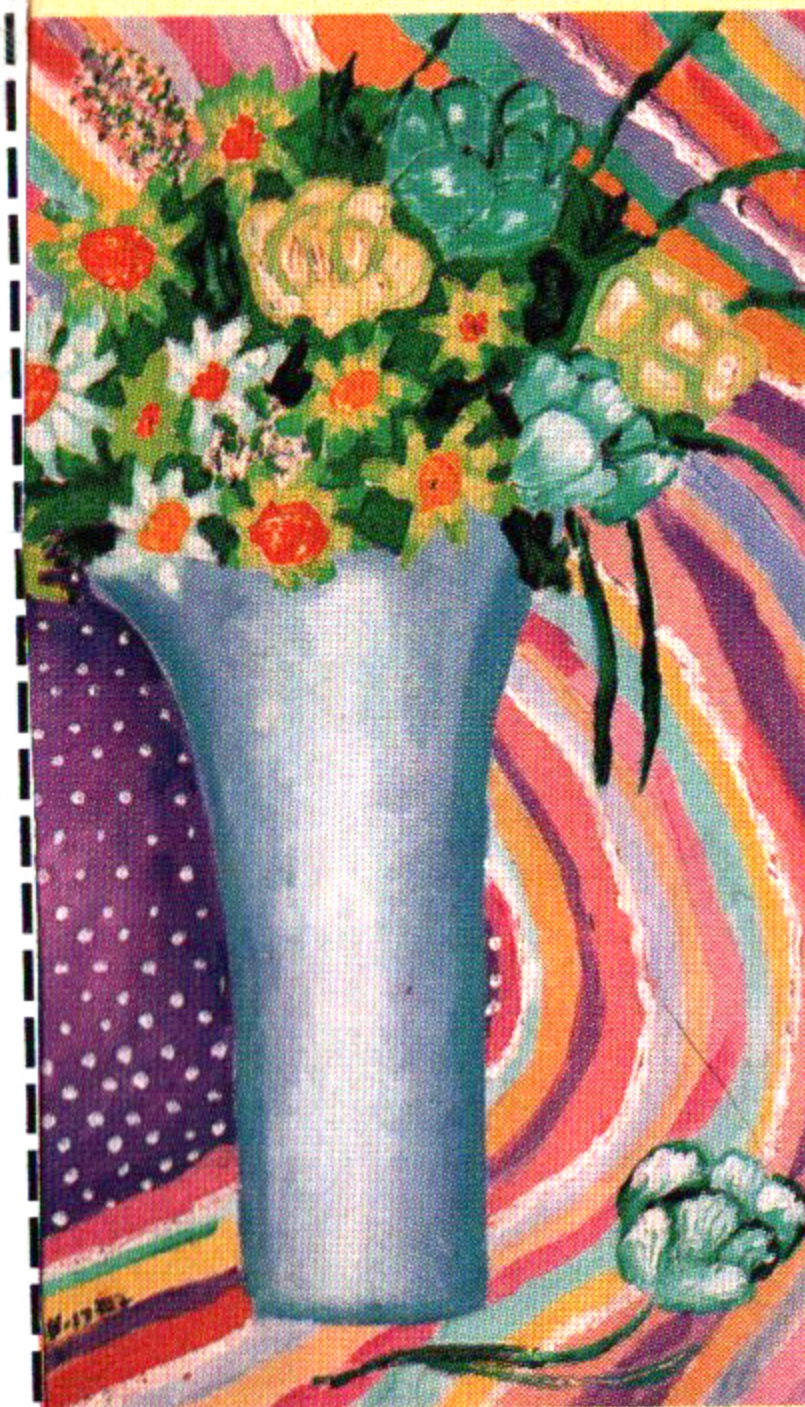
After finding advertisers, interviewing Jewish girls, writing and illustrating articles, designing the layout, shooting the cover photo, sending out press releases, and lots more work, YALDAH debuted last fall. I printed 150 copies. They sold out quickly, so I printed more. Then those sold out! Newspapers and TV stations began calling me for interviews. The second issue was even better than the first. Word spread quickly, and one day I got 600 hits on my Web site!

Now I have an editorial board of 14 girls to help me. As YALDAH grows, I am learning a lot about the publishing business. I've also made many friends—each day I get lots of e-mails from Jewish girls around the world. I hope that YALDAH will inspire girls to take pride in their heritage.

Sincerely,
Leah L.
Age 14, Massachusetts



YALDAH is Hebrew for "girl."
Check out the magazine at
yaldahmagazine.com.



Cut out your answer and mail it to us with your first and last name, address, and birth date.

We're looking for **artwork** for our gallery. Send **color copies** of your original artworks to the address on page 2. **Sorry**, we can't return entries.

You can shine, too.

Do you love to perform? Ask a parent if you can play an instrument, dance, or read your poetry to raise money for your favorite charity.

orn cans. So far, she has raised \$2,000 for the local children's hospital and the Sierra Club, a group helps protect animals and the environment. "I just really wanted to she says. ★

Lunch Box

Add crunch to sandwiches with fresh apples.

Toas

Pock

In the Loop

Dress up an old outfit with a

YOU WILL NEED

- * 2 yards of ribbon, 1 to 2 inches wide
- * Fabric glue
- * 2 D-rings (available at fabric stores)



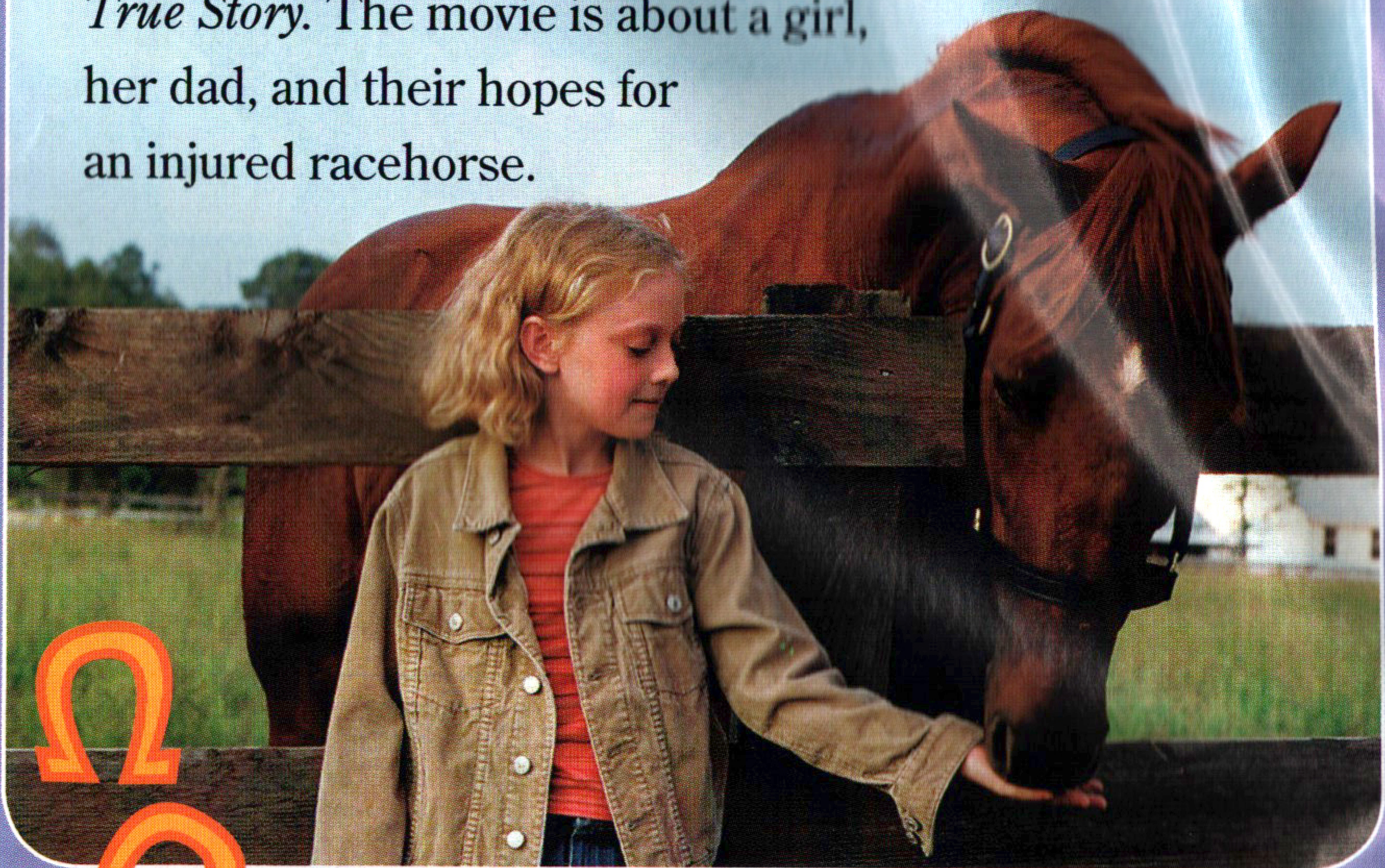
1 Lay surface ribbon hem. G Repeat



Girls Express

Saddle Cinema

We caught up with actress Dakota Fanning and asked about her new horse movie, *Dreamer: Inspired by a True Story*. The movie is about a girl, her dad, and their hopes for an injured racehorse.



AG: What kind of girl is your character?

Dakota: My character wants to be close to her dad. She wants to know about horses. She is very outdoorsy and wears jeans and overalls and likes to clean up the barn. She is different from me in that way, but that is why I like her.

AG: How did you like working with horses?

Dakota: The horses are very trained. It was fun to see the different tricks they can do. I worked with a dog in *The Cat in the Hat*—that was fun. But I got to ride horses in this movie, and that was amazing.

AG: Do you own a horse?

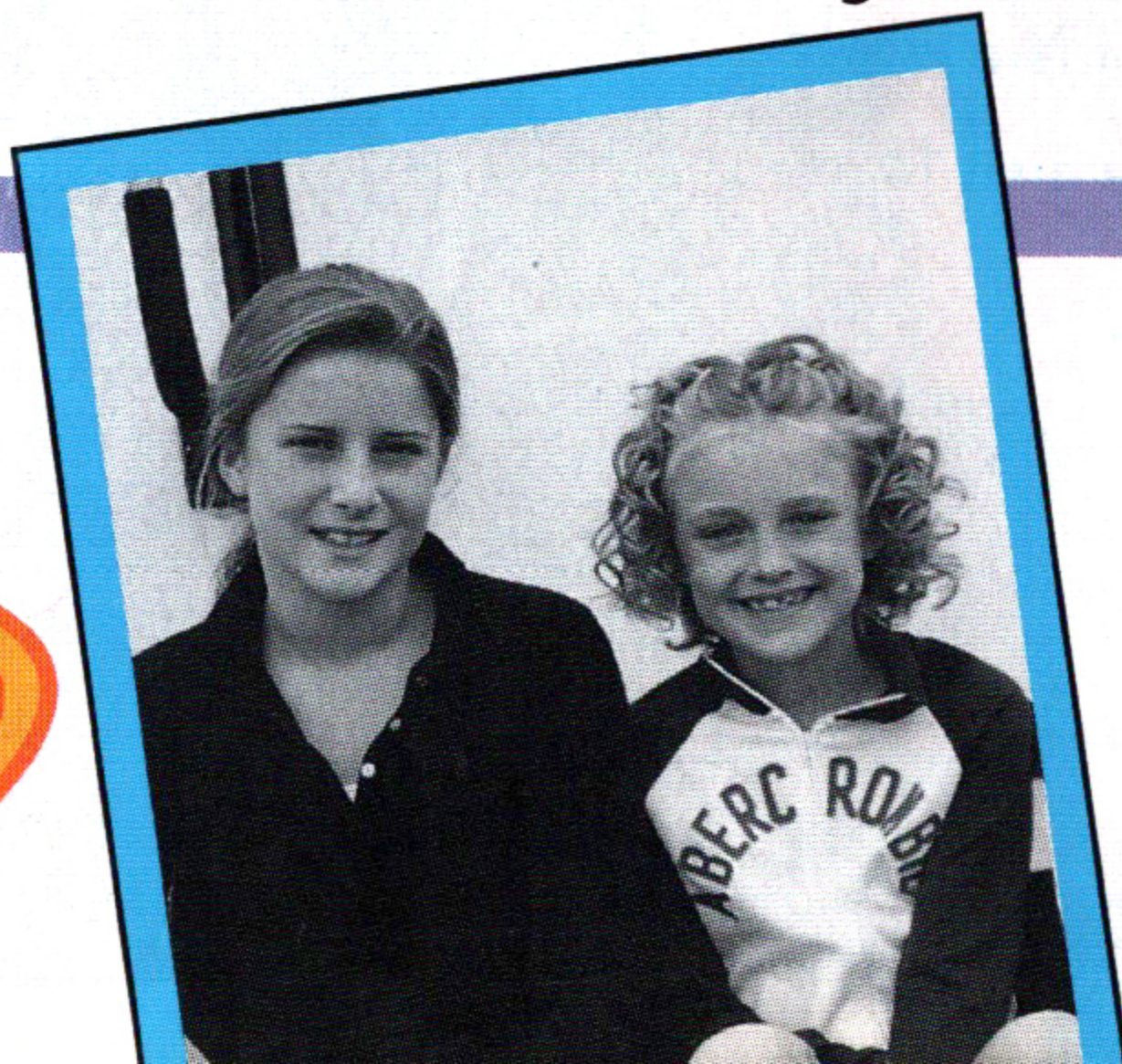
Dakota: I have a palomino quarter horse named Goldie. I have sparkles that I put in his hair, and I have everything pink for him. We braid his hair and wrap it in pink. He's a boy but kind of a girl.



We're giving away *Dreamer* movie posters signed by Dakota Fanning! Contest rules and information are on page 2.

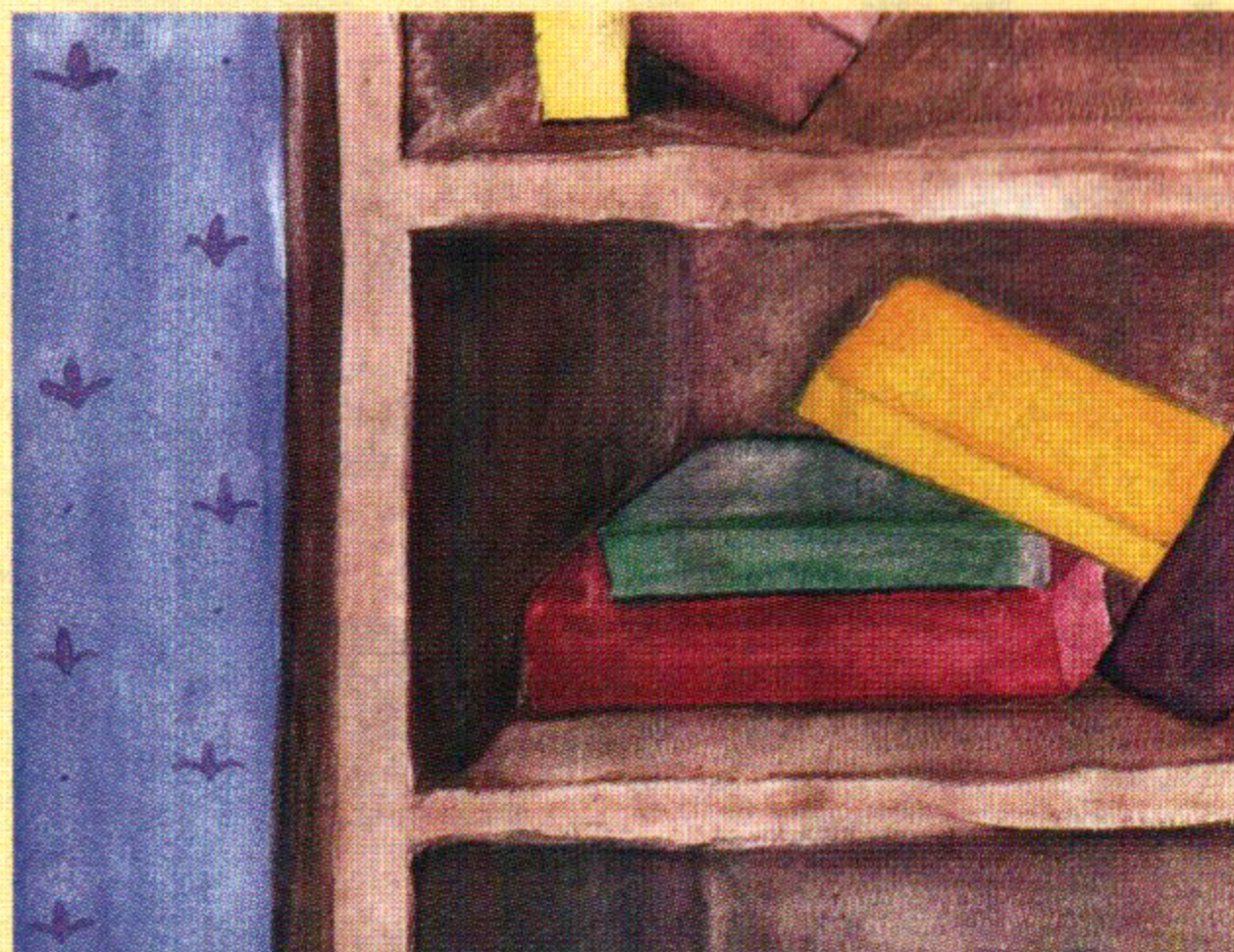
Behind the Scenes

AG reader Piper P. sent us this photo. She lives near a Kentucky racetrack where part of Dakota's movie was filmed. Piper got to visit the set and hang out with Dakota! The movie opens this fall.



AG Art Gallery

Enjoy this art sent in by AG readers like you.



Cheni T.
Age 12, California



Taylor J.
Age 12, Alabama



Shriya N.
Age 13, New York



Nicole C.
Age 13, Wisconsin

We're looking for **artwork** for our gallery. Send **color copies** of your original artworks to the address on page 2. **Sorry**, we can't return entries.

Shining Star

Stephanie D. always noticed the street musicians playing as she walked home from cello lessons. People walking by gave money to the performers, and one day, Stephanie got an idea. The 12-year-old Missouri girl decided that



she could play music on the street for money that she would donate to charity.

On Saturday mornings when the weather is nice, Stephanie and her dad go down to an area near a university and set up a chair and a music stand along a sidewalk. Then Stephanie plays her heart out.

Stephanie collects money for her two charities in decorative

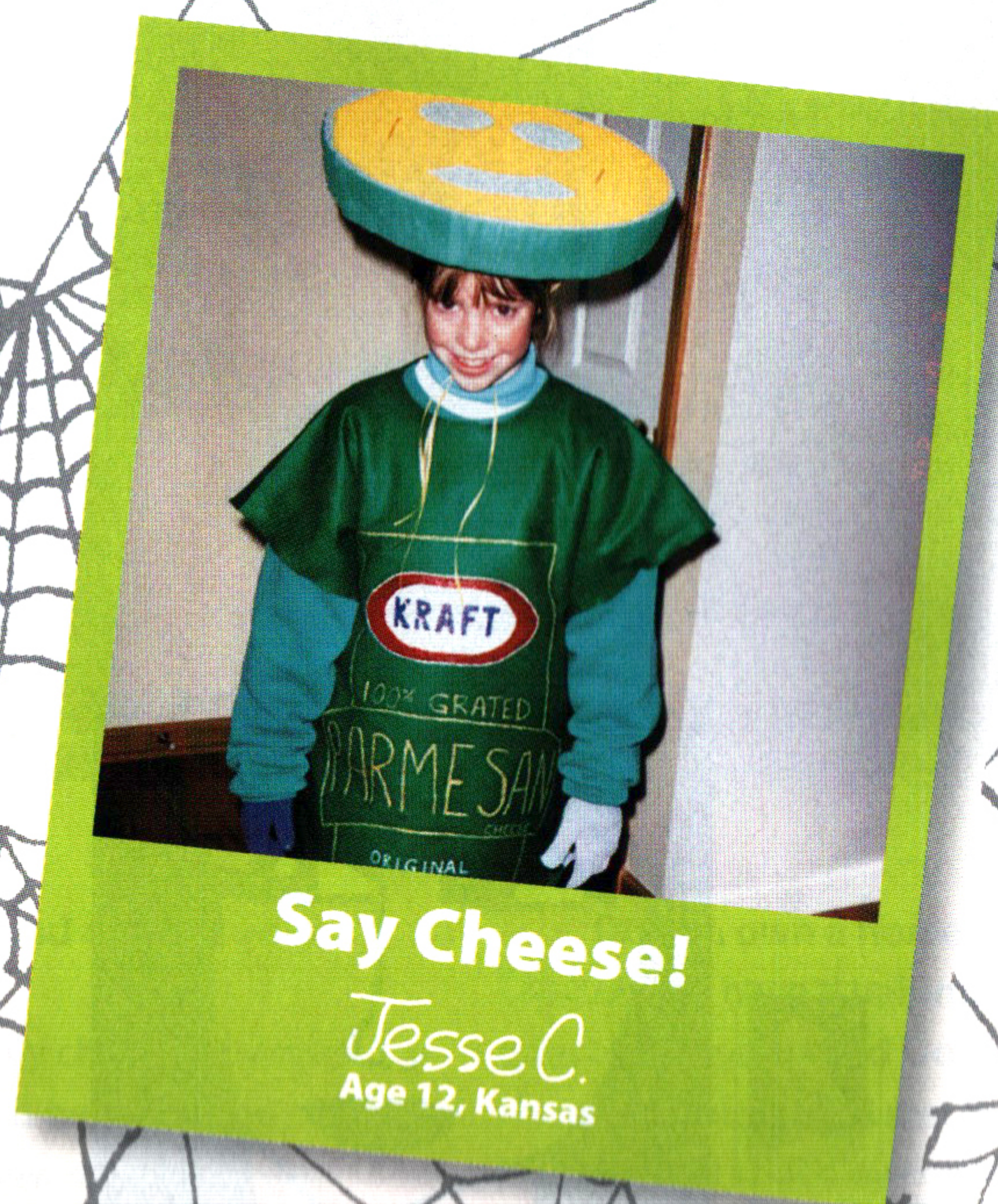
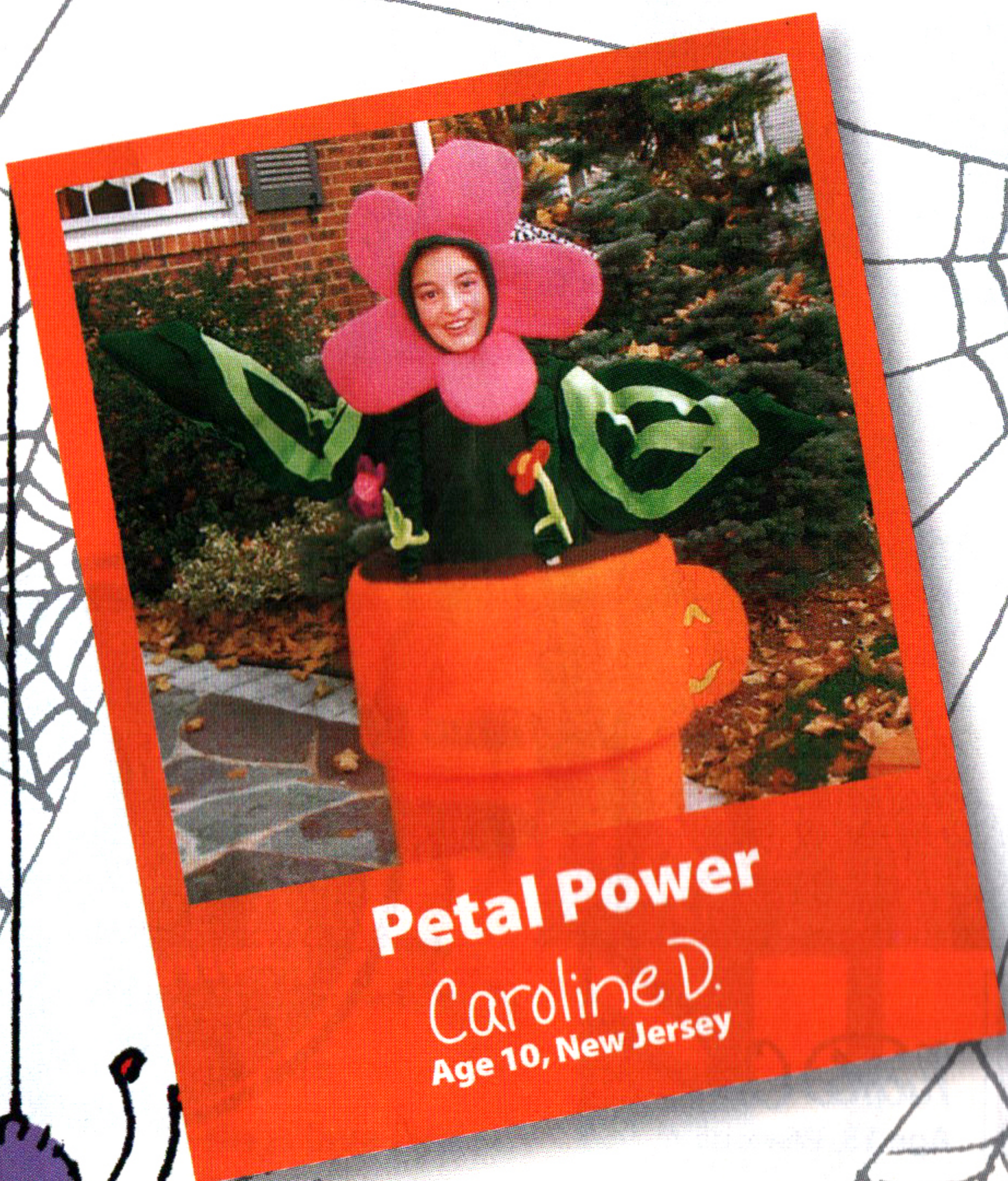
You can shine, too.

Do you love to perform? Ask a parent if you can play an instrument, dance, or read your poetry to raise money for your favorite charity.

popcorn cans. So far, she has raised about \$2,000 for the local children's hospital and the Sierra Club, a group that helps protect animals and the environment. "I just really wanted to help," she says. ★

Ha-Ha Halloween!

Your tricky Halloween costumes were a treat to look at.





Leaf It to Me.

Emily U.
Age 10, South Carolina



Mummy Madness

Katie J.
Age 11, Indiana



Good Clean Fun

Joyce F.
Age 11, New York



Mona Rachel

Rachel P.
Age 10, Maryland



Trick or Tree!

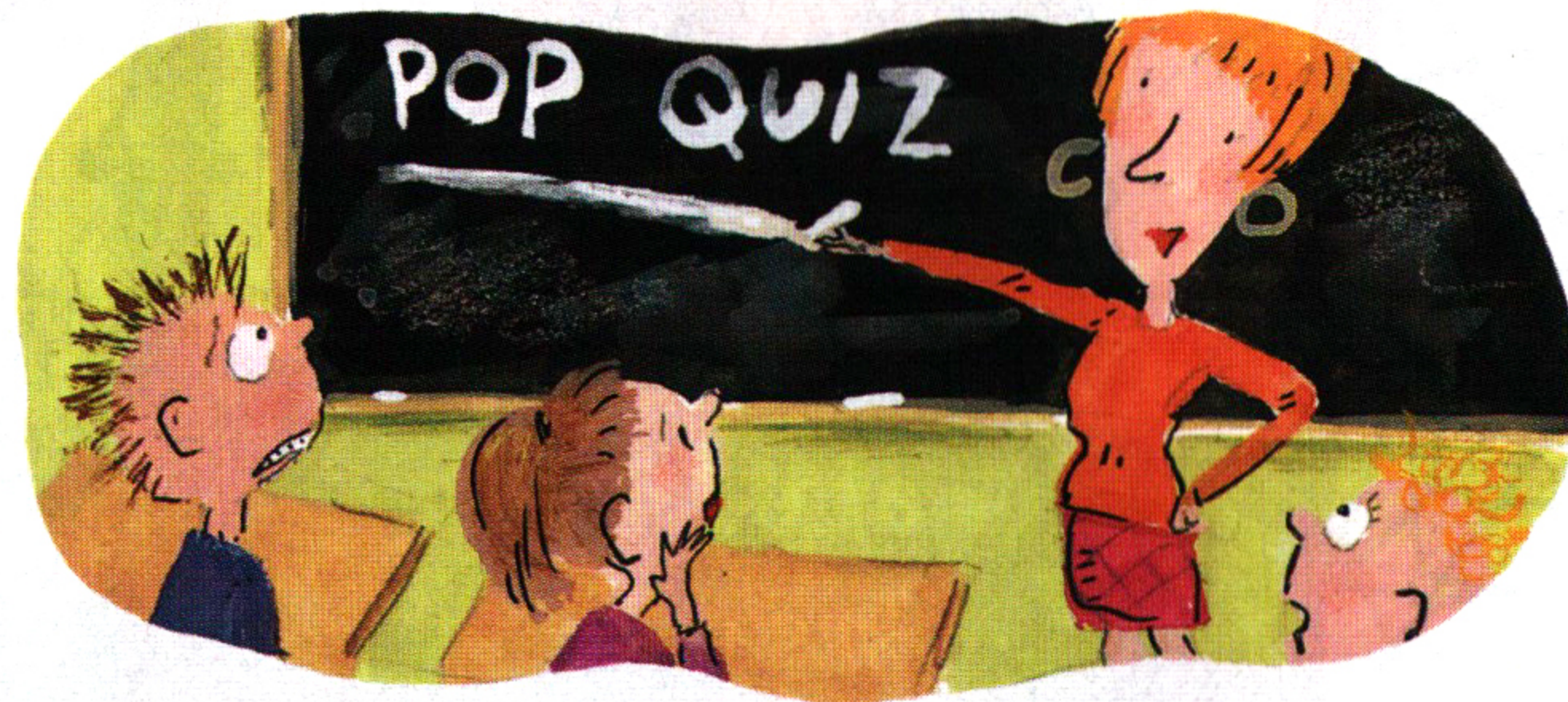
Natalie A.
Age 9, New Jersey

New Contest: Decorate an Umbrella

Walk through April showers in style! Show us what your perfect umbrella would look like. Send your drawings to the address on page 2, along with your first and last name, address, and birth date. Deadline: October 10, 2005. Winners will appear in the March/April 2006 issue. Sorry, we can't return entries.

Teacher Troubles

What would you say to girls whose teachers are really strict or just don't seem fair?



Whenever my teacher made me angry or upset, I just took three deep breaths and thought about my favorite things or something fun I'd done that week. It really helped me to not get so stressed.

Kelsey L.
Age 12, Iowa



Just talk to your teacher. Last year I kept getting C's and D's, and I thought my work was a lot better than that. When I talked to my teacher about it, she said she didn't think I was trying my hardest. Talking to her helped me pull my grades back up.

Ellis L.
Age 12, Minnesota



When we had a teacher who was really strict, some of the kids reacted by having an attitude. I don't think that helps. I recommend being polite. If you are polite, the teacher should be polite back!

Wendy L.
Age 13, North Carolina



My dance teacher called once after I had missed a bunch of classes from being sick, and it made me mad. But then I realized she was only doing it because she was concerned and wanted me to succeed.

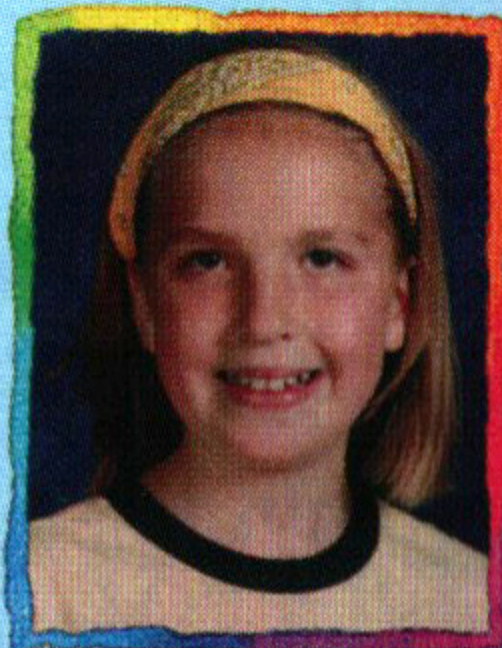
Maggie L.
Age 10, Washington



If you are not comfortable talking to your teacher

about a problem you're having with her, talk to your parents about it and ask them to talk to your teacher for you.

Kennedy G.
Age 10, Tennessee



If you don't like your teacher much, try to focus on

the good parts about him. Maybe he has great books to read or maybe he does fun art projects and has great craft supplies.

Maggie J.
Age 10, New Jersey



Big Truth

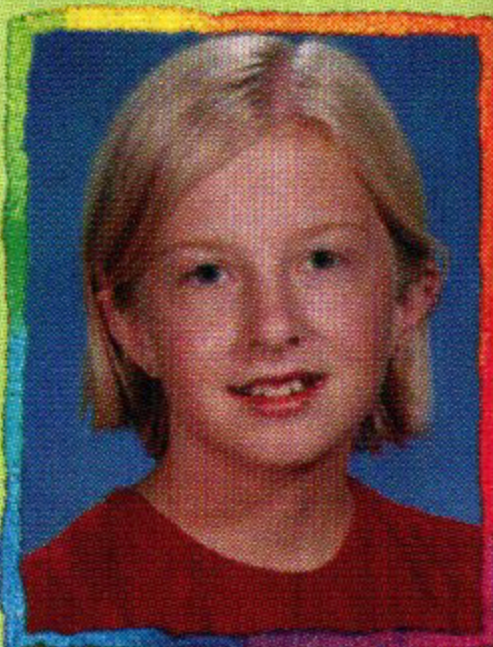
No one is perfect—and that includes teachers!



I felt like my teacher yelled a lot, but I realized that

she wasn't yelling at me. She was yelling at the kids who misbehaved. Try not to take yelling personally.

Emmye V.
Age 8, Connecticut



I used to have a teacher who made science class really

boring. My advice to girls is to remember that your teacher won't be your teacher forever!

Barbara L.
Age 13, California

Speak from Your Heart

Next subject: Standing up for yourself. Did someone call you a baby or take something of yours without asking? Sometimes people don't treat each other respectfully and need to be called on it. Tell us about a time you defended yourself. Was it hard to do? How did it make you feel afterward?

Send answer, name, birth date, and school photo to the address on page 2.

Deadline: October 7, 2005. Some answers will appear in the March/April 2006 issue. ★



How to Help a Friend

You just heard that something awful has happened in your friend's family. It could be a divorce, a death, or other bad news. Your friend is hurting and you want to help. But how?

by Patti Kelley Criswell

First Things First

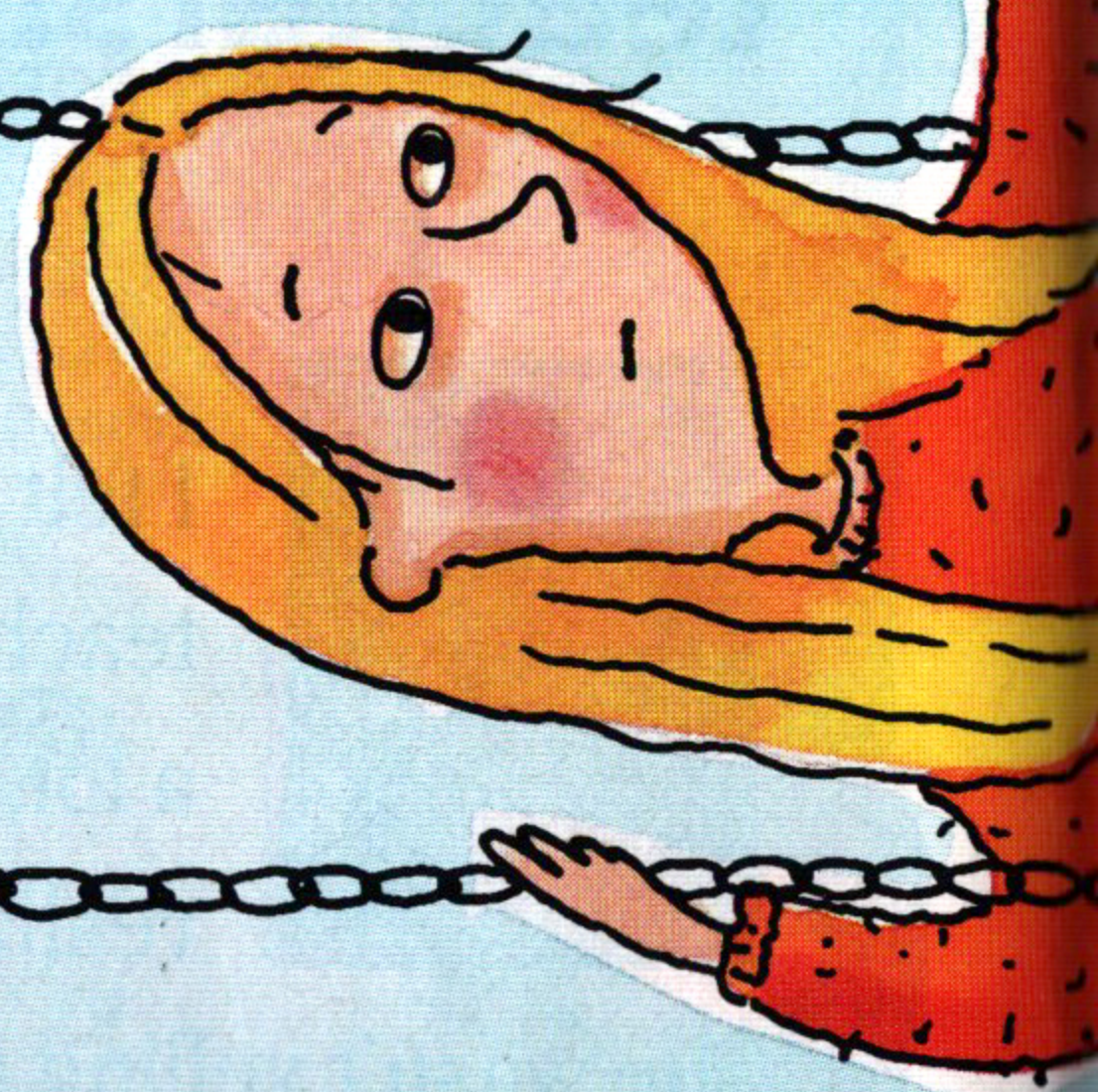
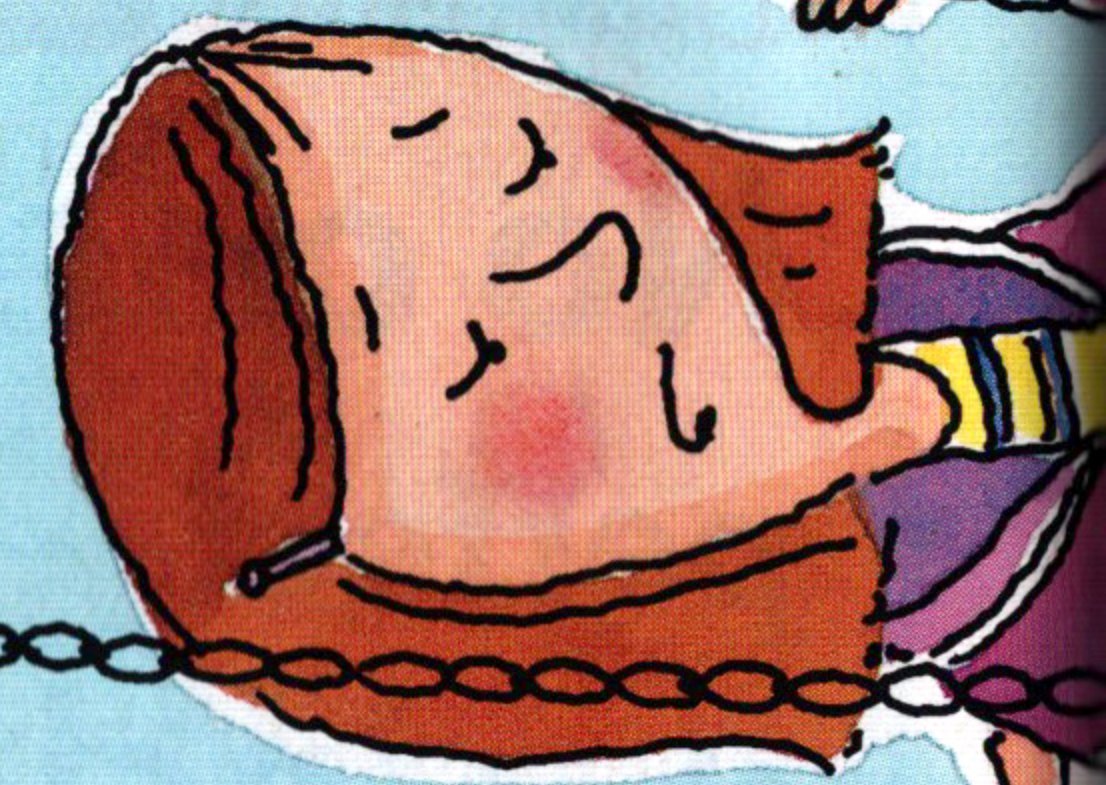
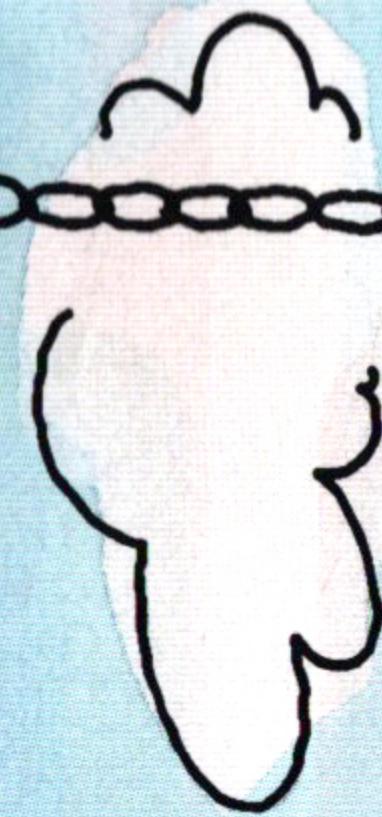
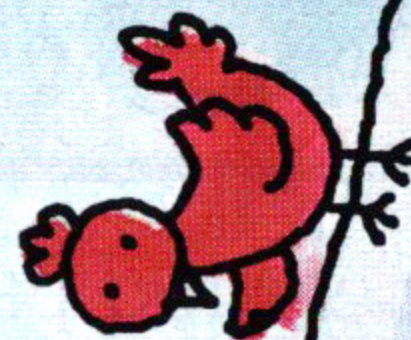
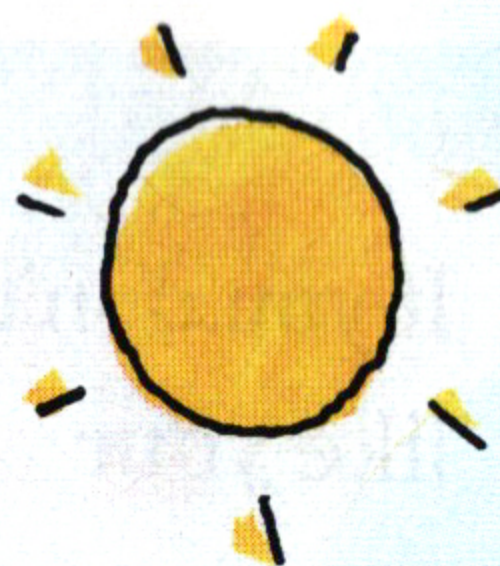
Talk to your parents. Let them know what's going on. If you have questions, ask. They may have advice on what to do or say, too.

Get in Touch

You might feel awkward, but it's important to talk to your friend. Don't let worries about saying the wrong thing stop you from saying anything. Your friend needs to know you're there for her.

When You Call

Be prepared—your friend may not have time to talk. Say "Is this a good time?" Don't feel bad if she can't talk very long or doesn't have much to say.



Checking In

If you can't see your friend for a while, be sure to send cards or e-mails regularly to let her know you're thinking of her.

Listening Helps

Your friend may not want to talk about what's going on, and that's O.K. But if she does want to talk, be the best listener you can be.

Be Patient

When you see your friend, she may seem different. Don't point it out to her or try to get her to act like her old self. Just be patient with her and accept her as she is.

Keep It Quiet

Your friend may tell you personal details about what happened. If you need to talk about them, tell a parent—not your other friends.

Illustrations: Amanda Haley

What to Say

Whether you're talking to your friend in person, on the phone, in an e-mail, or in a card, these words show that you care.

I heard what happened, and I'm really sorry.

I'm always here if you want to talk.

I'm thinking of you, and I hope you're O.K.

Is there anything I can do to help you?

You can get through this. You are strong and smart and have lots of people who care about you.

Just letting your friend know

that you care is the most important thing you can do. The best part of friendship is knowing that when bad things happen, we don't have to go through them alone. ★

Style It!

Give your hair a fresh, new look for any occasion this fall.

Report Day



1 Pull hair behind head and put in a low braid. Secure with a hair elastic.



2 Pull bottom of braid up through the hair at the nape of the neck. Secure with bobby pins.



3 Give your hairstyle the finishing touch by adding headbands.



School Spirit



1 Using the end of a tail comb, separate a tiny section of hair at top of head. Tie off with an elastic. Repeat on both sides of the face.



2 Starting on one side, twist a section of hair until it begins to coil up on itself.



3 Wrap hair around in a bun shape and secure with mini butterfly clips in school colors. Repeat with remaining ponytails.

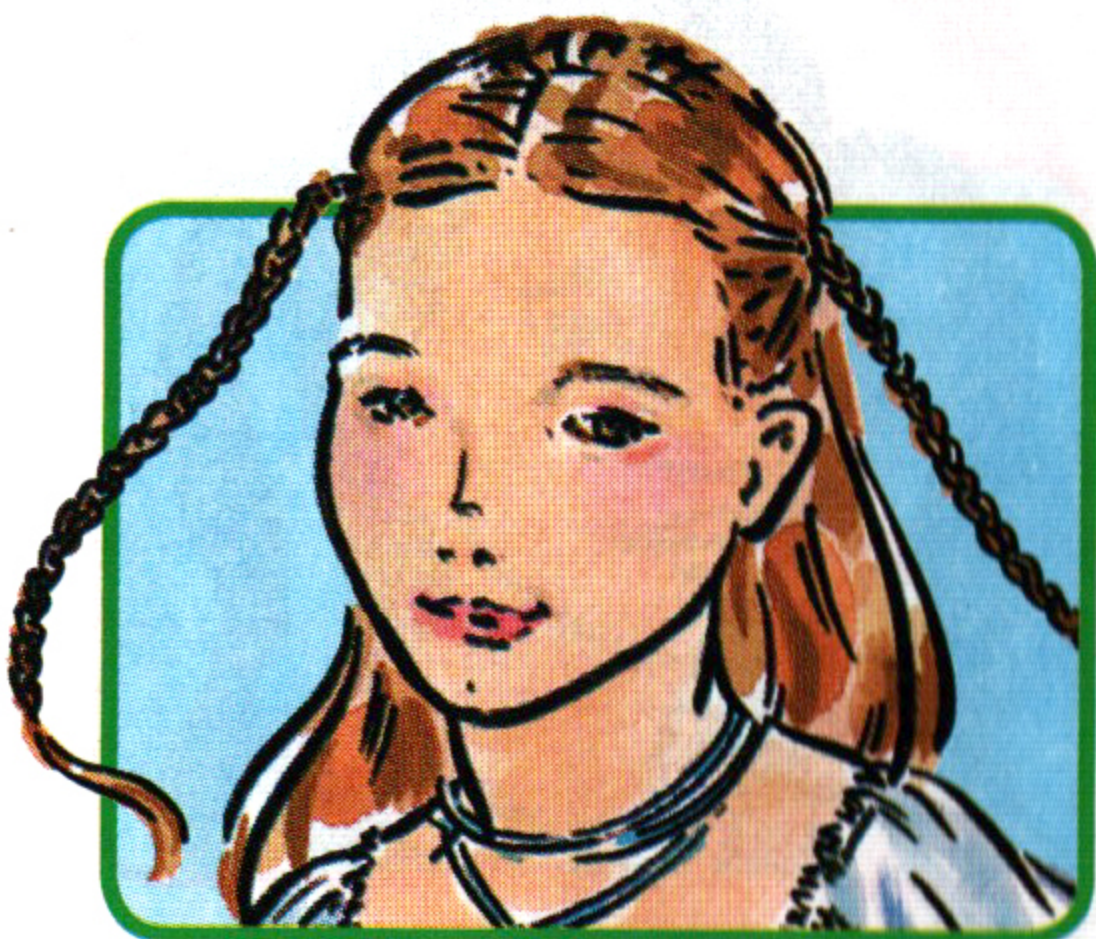


4 Add barrettes in school colors for extra spirit. Put remaining hair in two low ponytails.

A man holds the record for the world's longest hair—it's almost 17 feet long!



Ready for the Recital



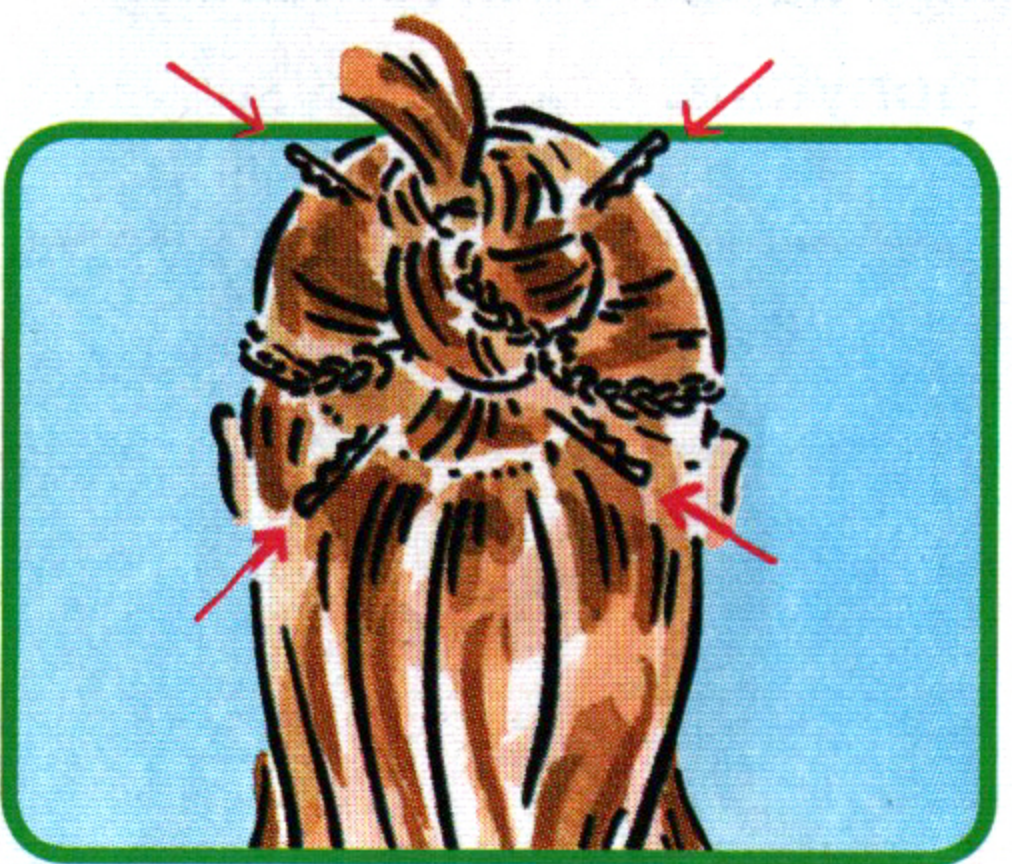
1 Part hair in the center and divide hair near the face into two small sections. Braid each section and secure with hair elastics.



2 Starting at your ears, gather hair and twist to the end while slowly pulling up, making a roll.



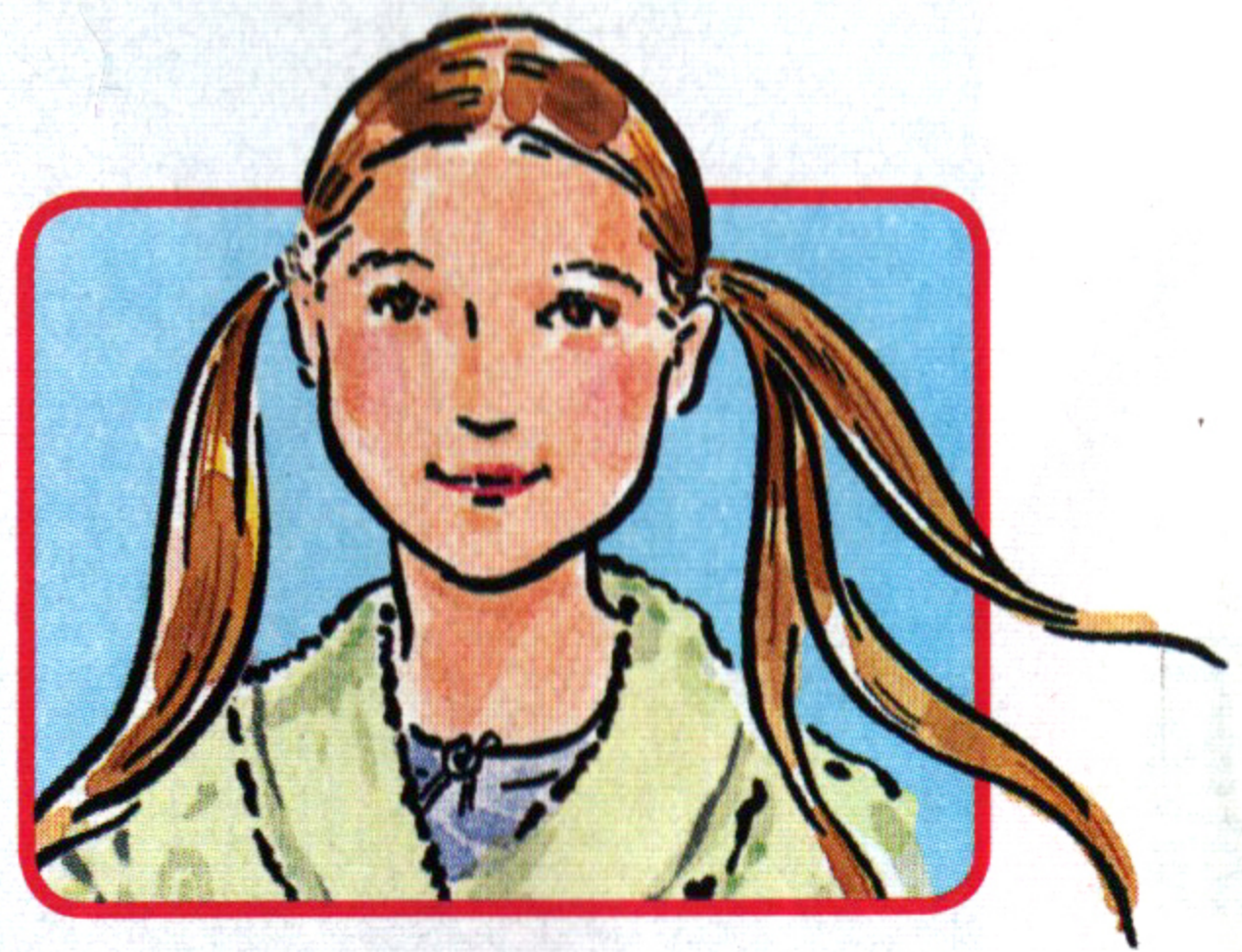
3 Coil remaining twisted hair at the top of the roll.



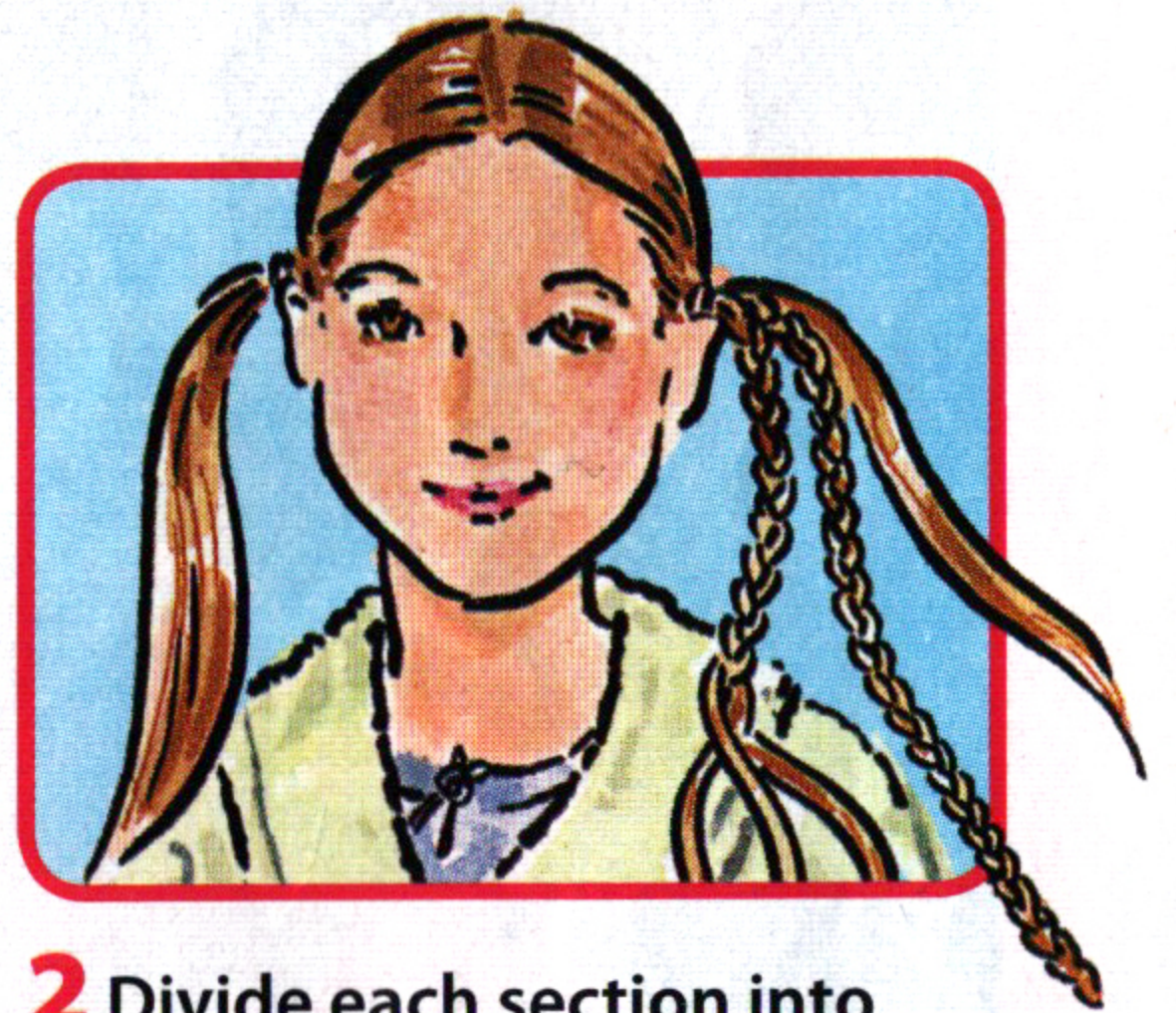
4 Insert bobby pins around the coil and roll to hold in place.



Sleepover Style



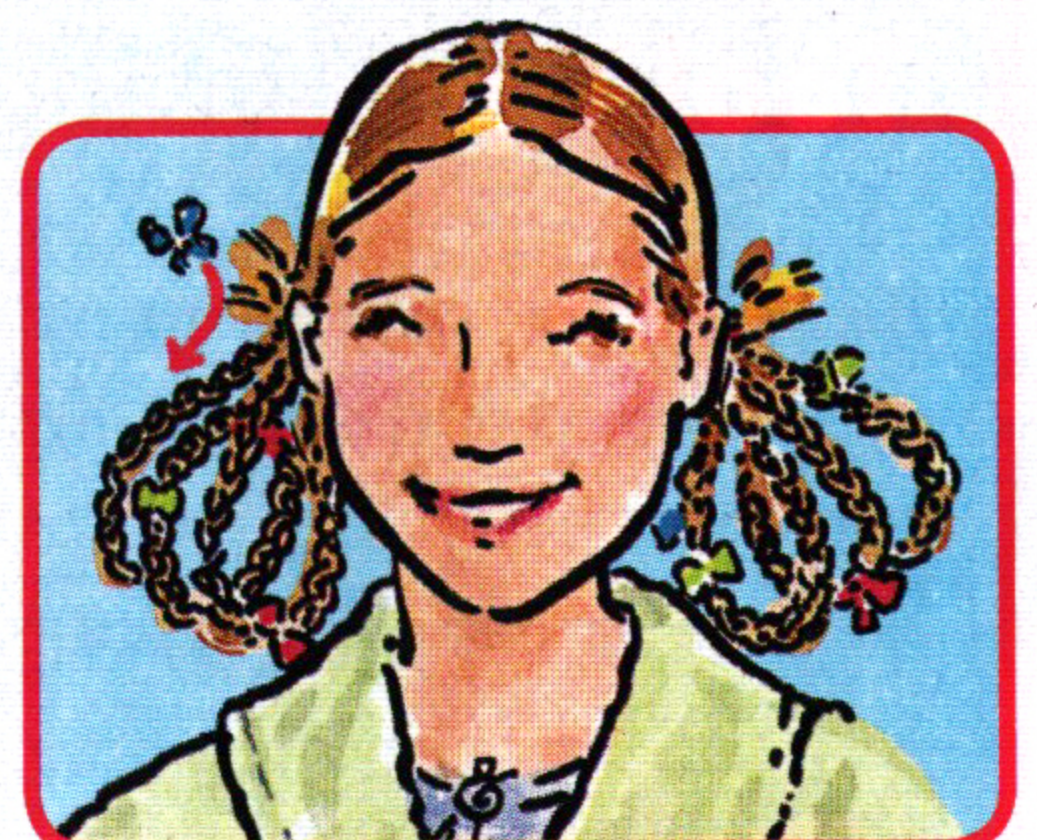
1 Put hair in two low pigtails and tie off with elastics. Divide one pigtail into three sections.



2 Divide each section into three smaller sections and braid. Secure with elastics.



3 Use another, larger elastic at the top of the braids and loop them halfway through. Repeat on other side.



4 Add colorful butterfly clips to the braids.

Hairy Halloween



1 Put hair in two high pigtails. Tease pigtails by holding up ends of hair and brushing toward the scalp.



2 Clip in strands of fake hair (available at discount and accessories stores).

Show us your **style!** Send us pictures of your hairstyles—from **fun** to **fancy**—to the address on page 2.

Tool Tips Having the right tools is the secret to tress success!

Tail Comb

The pointed end of a tail comb is perfect for dividing hair into sections and making great parts.



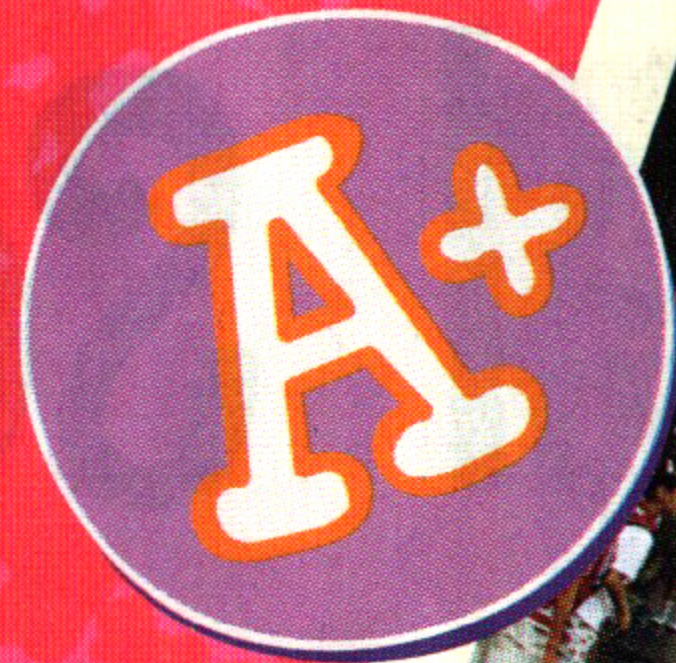
Butterfly Clips

These clips work great for holding twisty knots in place. They also are good for securing a French twist. Plus, their cute colors can jazz up any ordinary 'do!

Bobby Pins

Keep a handful of bobby pins in your backpack in case your locks get loose. They'll hold anything from a bun to a twist. ★

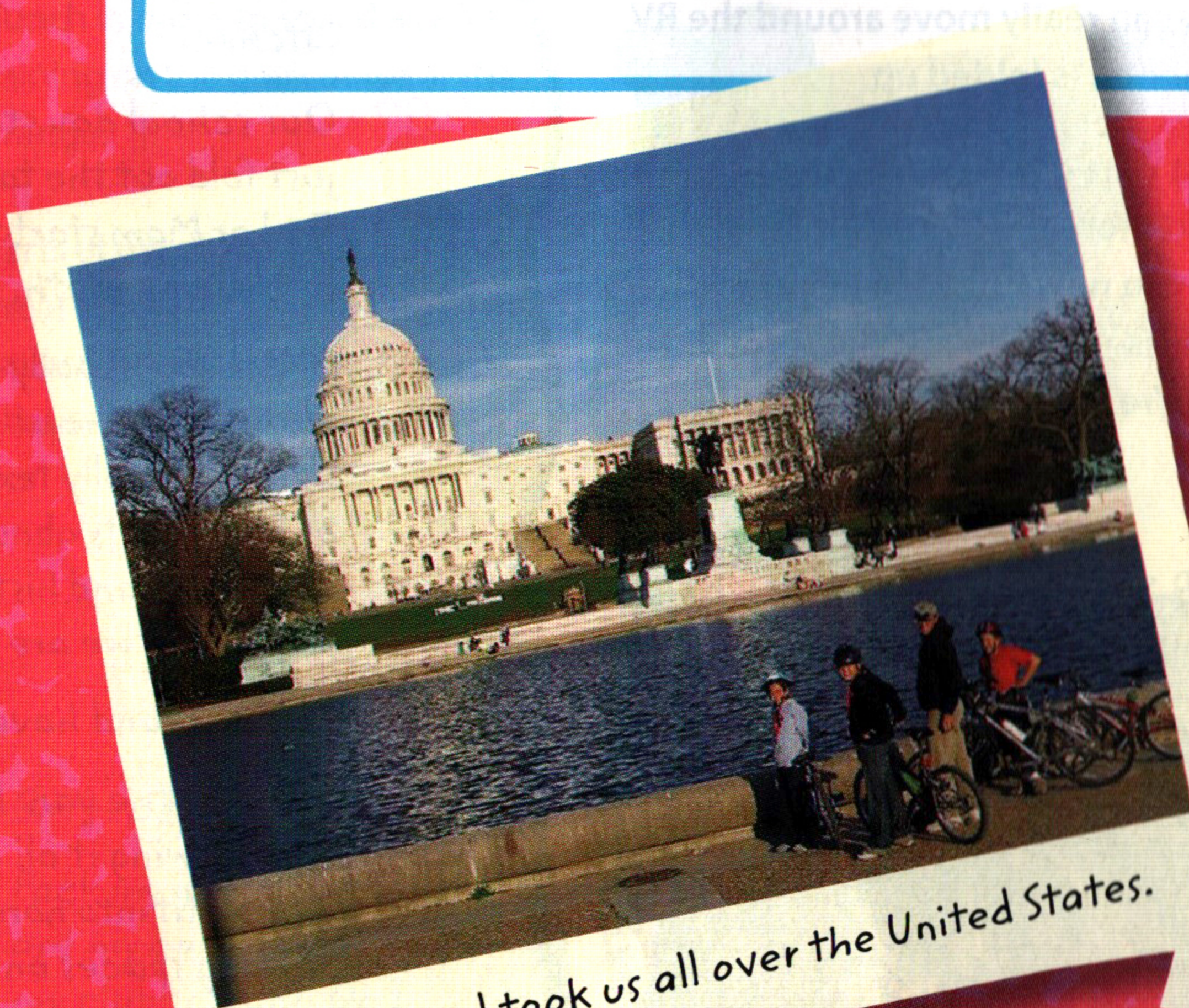




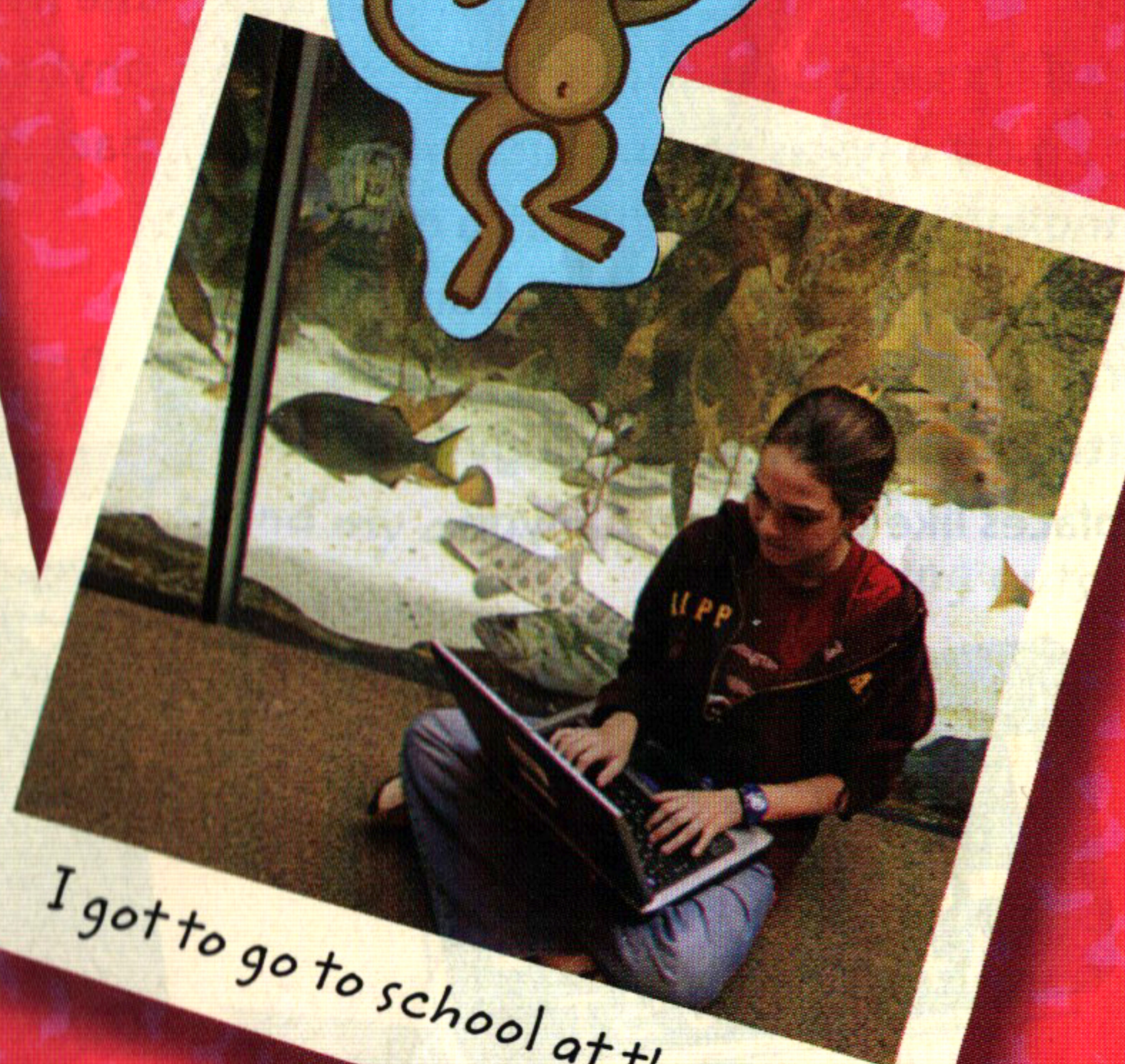
Going to school in China was great.

Cool Schools

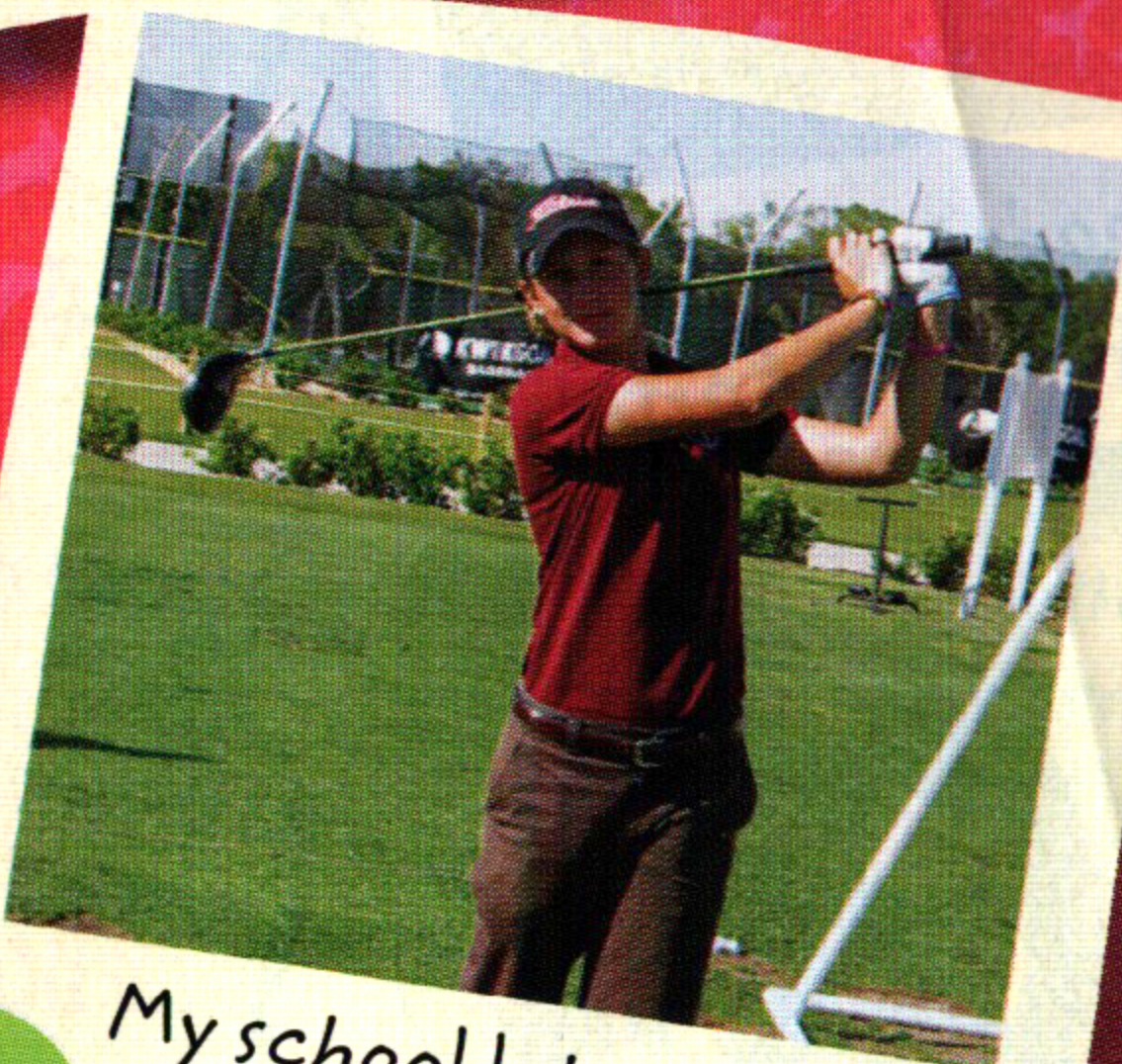
These girls' schools are *anything* but ordinary.



Our school took us all over the United States.



I got to go to school at the zoo.



My school lets me play sports half the day.

Illustrations: Stacy Peterson

Travel School

Sports School

Zoo School

Overseas School



Travel School

Jenna and Leah K. have taken school on the road—they live and learn in an RV.

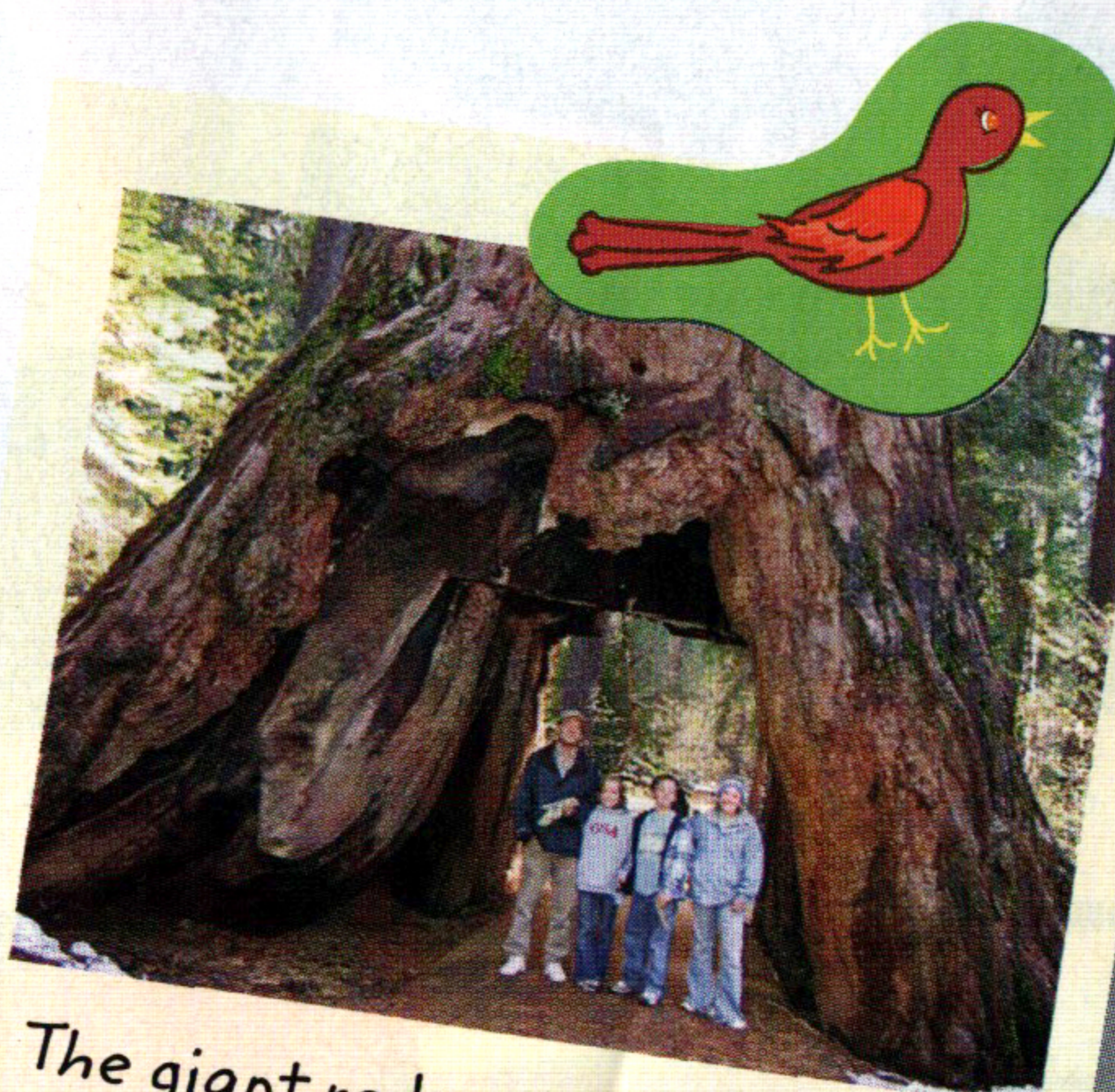
Travel School

Whoever heard of a school where you can visit a jelly-bean factory in California, study shrimp you pull out of the Great Salt Lake, and learn how to make wigs in Colonial Williamsburg—all in one school year? Well, our dad came up with the idea to take our family (five of us including our parents and our brother, Nate) on a yearlong field trip. We left our home in Minnesota and are visiting, exploring, and studying the United States in an RV named Harvey.

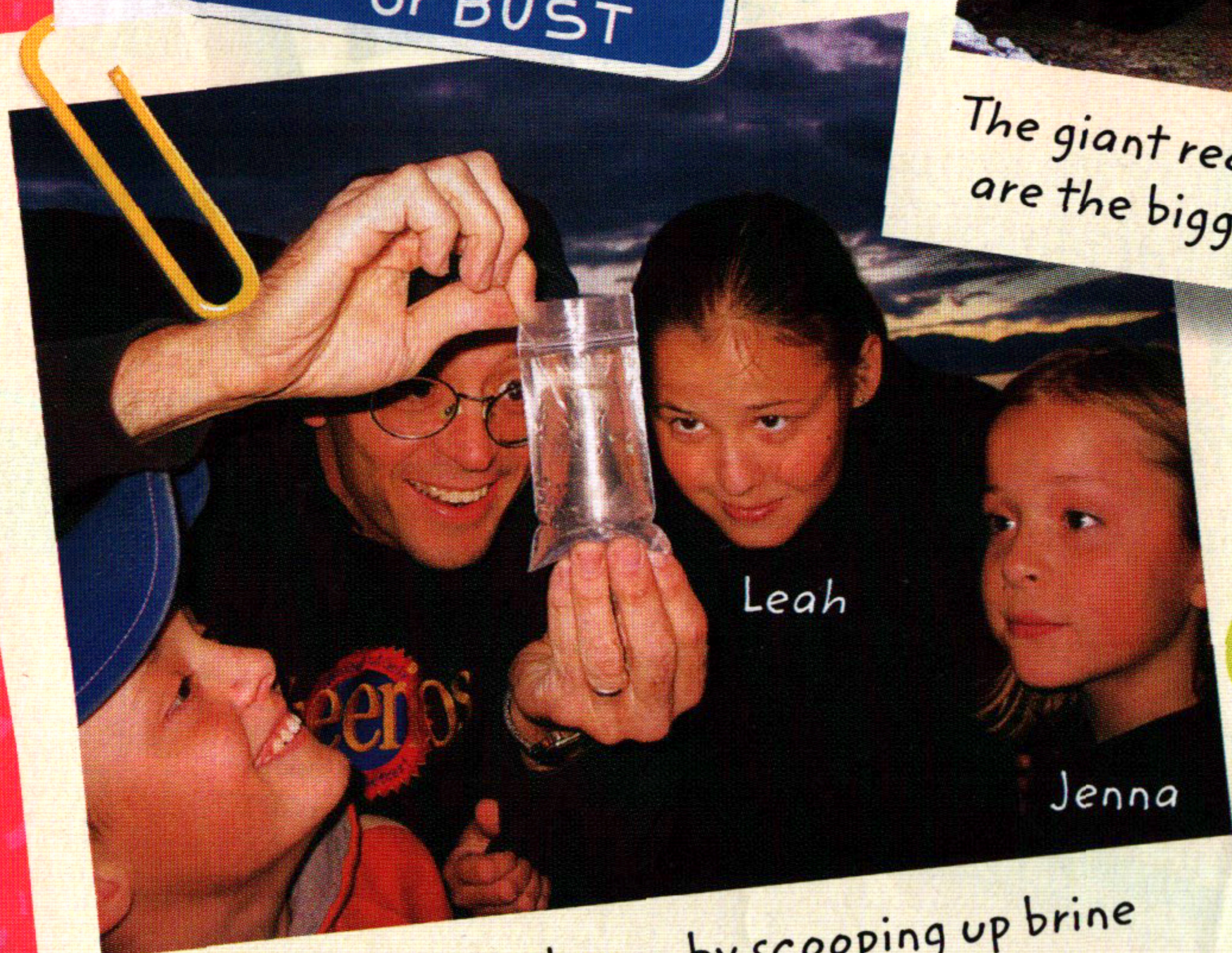
We still have to do math and other subjects most days as part of our home-schooling program. But we also get to do gym by hiking through national parks, have history lessons at famous battlegrounds, and do geology class at places like the Grand Canyon.

We both agree that some of our favorite stops have been hanging out at a ranch in Montana, camping near the ocean in California, and canoeing in the Florida Keys. But we don't agree on everything, like when to get out of bed! This is hard, because the two of us share a bed and nobody can really move around the RV until our bed is folded up.

The best part of this whole trip is getting to spend more time with our family. In the RV, you never have to wonder where anybody is—there's just the front or the back. We're stuck together, happily.



The giant redwoods in California are the biggest trees on Earth!



We did a science lesson by scooping up brine shrimp from the Great Salt Lake in Utah.



This is Harvey the RV.

Our Day

- 8:00** Jenna gets up and steps over Leah on the fold-up bed.
- 8:15** Dad drags Leah out of bed.
- 8:20** Take turns in the bathroom. It's hard to put your hair in a ponytail in that tiny space!
- 8:30** Breakfast in Harvey's mini kitchen.
- 9:00** Our school day starts. We just fold out the tables, and Dad or Mom starts one of us or Nate on math.
- 10:00** Switch! Somebody else does math while the other two of us read, usually textbooks or fact sheets about the geography and history of the states that we are visiting.
- 11:30** Clean up and have lunch.
- 12:45** Pile into the van. Harvey's been towing it all along so we can fit into normal-sized parking spaces on day trips.
- 1:00** Driving, driving, driving.
- 1:30** Everybody out to see the sights.
- 2:30** Back in the van on our way home to Harvey, parked in a nearby campsite. We'll check e-mail, have dinner, and watch TV or play games.
- 9:15** Pull out the beds.
- 9:30** Lights out!
- 10:00** All is quiet, unless it's raining loudly on Harvey's fiberglass roof.

Sports School

Christina M.'s dream is to be a pro golfer, and she works toward her goal at school.

My school lets me pursue my dream—I want to travel the world playing golf on the Ladies Professional Golf Association tour. I work toward my goal every day at a special school for athletes in Florida, near where I live. We do an entire day's worth of schoolwork before lunch in order to spend all afternoon training on the golf course or the driving range.

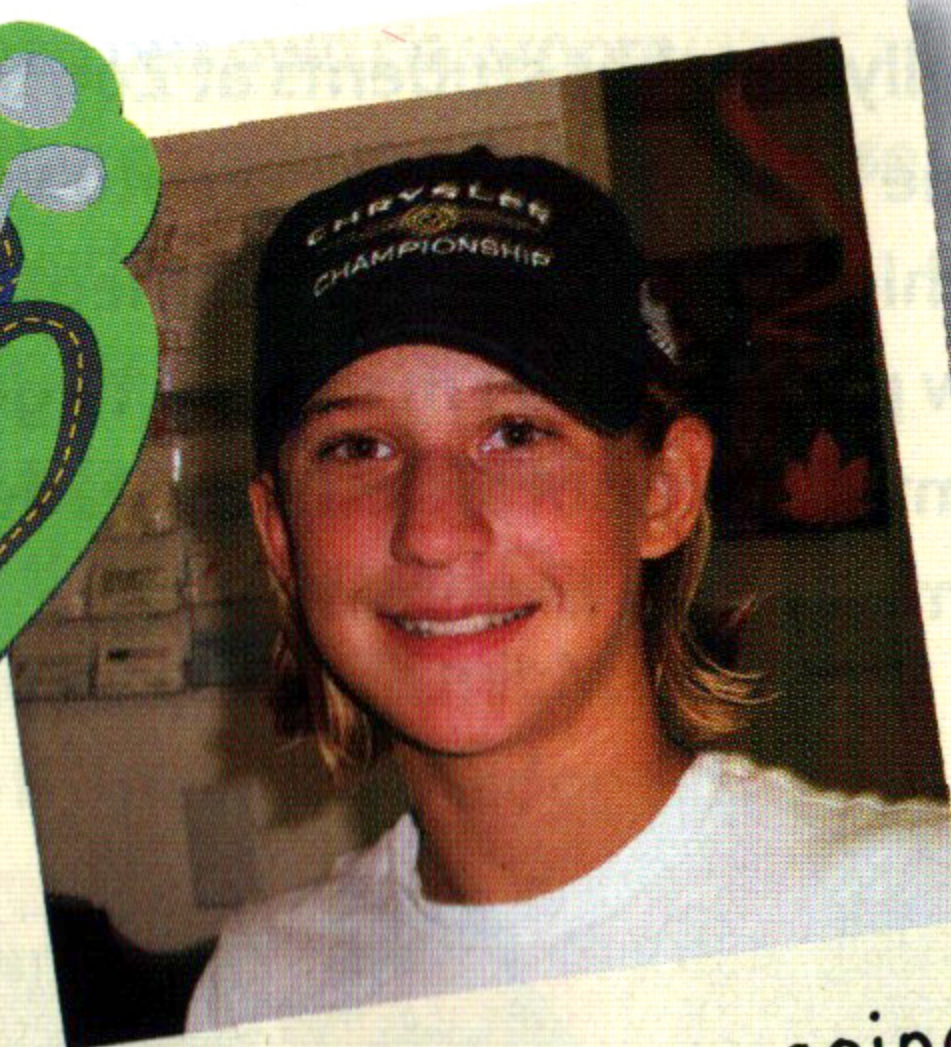
Some parts of my day are just like going to a normal school—I love talking to my friends at lunchtime, and I study math, English, and history. But there are a lot

of different things. For instance, I have almost no time in between classes, and I spend all my afternoons outside.

Though it may look easy, golf is a hard sport. There are lots of rules, and I work

I get to cruise in a golf cart.

every day on skills like accuracy and consistency in my swing. I love playing in tournaments with well-known junior golfers. And some weekends, I play 18 holes with my dad. He tries to beat me, but I usually win!



My goals keep me going.



I spend my afternoons practicing outside.

My Day

- 6:05** Get ready for school.
- 6:20** Pack my golf bag. Where are my golf shoes? Are my clubs clean? Do I have enough balls and tees?
- 6:30** Eat cereal in the kitchen.
- 6:45** Get into the car with Mom.
- 7:45** Start the school day—there are six of us in my homeroom.
- 8:00** The bell rings, and I rush to Spanish class.
- 8:45** Race to math.
- 9:30** Dash to American history.
- 10:15** Run to life sciences.

- 11:00** Hurry to English.
- 11:45** Sprint to drama.
- 12:30** Catch the shuttle back to the golf academy—my stomach is growling.
- 1:00** Lunch.
- 1:15** Quick change into my collared shirt, pants, golf shoes, and hat.
- 1:30** Meet up with my group. There are six of us—two girls, including me—plus the coach.
- 1:35** Coach explains all the drills we'll be working on, like bunker shots (in the sand), putting, driving, and

iron shots. Some days we play nine holes on the school golf course.

- 3:00** More drills. The coach usually films us, and then we watch our videos and discuss areas to work on.
- 5:00** Phew! Long day. Mom or Dad picks me up and we go home.
- 5:30** Get home for a snack, homework, and TV.
- 8:00** Dinner with Mom and Dad.
- 9:30** Lights out. I have to get some sleep before I do it all over again tomorrow.

Zoo School

Michelle K.'s school is a zoo—literally! She gets to study the animals up close.

Imagine being able to go to the zoo whenever you want. That's what it's like to go to my school. It's right next to the zoo downtown, and animals and the environment are part of all of our lessons. Zoo School is small—there are only 60 kids in the whole school—and it's only for sixth-graders.

We have learned about so many kinds of animals. I did a project on bongos, which are striped African antelope, and now those are my favorite animals at the zoo. Sometimes we go into the zoo to give tours to younger kids who are visiting. My class is raising salmon from eggs behind the scenes, and we've gotten to help feed and take care of lots of zoo animals. I've made meals for the

vulture, the porcupine, and the otters—they're so cute! As a junior zookeeper, I got to help clean out the spot where the grizzly bears sleep, and one bear was only a few feet away from me—behind a sturdy gate, of course.

I really like that students at Zoo School come from all over my hometown in Michigan, so I've gotten to meet a lot of new people. And I'm excited to go back to my old school after sixth grade, but I'll miss my new animal friends.



Here I am making the vulture's meal in the zoo kitchen.



Besides this vulture, I got to help the keepers take care of the prairie dogs and wolverines.



This corn snake lives in our classroom.



My Day

- 7:00** Catch the bus.
- 7:45** Get to school. Classes don't start for another half hour, so do I have any homework to finish? If not, I can read or take care of the softshell turtle. He eats food pellets or dried shrimp.
- 8:15** We always start with student presentations on science topics.
- 9:30** Zoology.
- 10:30** Zoo lab. Wonder what we'll do in the zoo today? Maybe we'll do animal research or go on an animal scavenger hunt in the zoo...
- 11:30** Lunch. We'll stake out our favorite picnic table by Monkey Island, and maybe afterward we'll visit other animals we like.
- 12:10** Something active—four square or kickball—and then quiet reading time.
- 12:30** Junior zookeeping. I love being behind the scenes! There's so much that zoo visitors don't see, like the animals' toys and beds.
- 2:30** Classroom jobs.
- 3:00** School's out. I ride the bus all over town with the other kids.
- 4:10** Home at last. Time for piano lessons.
- 5:00** Dinner and homework.
- 9:30** Bedtime!



Overseas School

May B. went to a public school in China, and all of her classes were taught in Chinese.

I was born in China, but I was adopted as a baby and raised in New York. When my mom got a chance to teach at a university in China, I moved with my family to the country where I was born. And I got to go to public school there for part of a year!

We spoke Chinese almost all the time in class. At first, it was hard for me to understand because people spoke very fast. But I knew some of the language because I'd had caregivers and friends who spoke Chinese. The kids in my school in China were very

nice to me and treated me as if I had been in their class since kindergarten.

One thing that was different was the class size. In my school in New York, we have 24 kids in a class. In China, we had 40. Another difference was that we had to clean our own classroom because there were no janitors. Chinese songs played on the loudspeakers between classes, and we studied silk-worms in science class. I miss it, but I feel lucky that I got to see China—it was like seeing what my life might have been like if I hadn't been adopted.

My Day

6:30 My alarm clock goes off.

6:45 Eat breakfast.

7:00 Brush my teeth and dress. Don't forget my red scarf and my identity pin!

7:30 Walk to school with my father.

7:45 Go through the gates of my school. At the gates, students check to see if you are wearing your red scarf and identity pin. If you aren't, they take away points from your class. Same thing if you're late.

7:50 School begins.

8:00 On Mondays, we go to the schoolyard to raise the Chinese flag.

8:30 Math class is always first.

9:00 English class is next. It's easy for me. I love to find mistakes in the textbooks!

10:00 Different classes on different days. Maybe reading, more math, or social studies.

12:00 Lunch! We get a whole hour to eat, and then another hour for recess.

2:00 Different classes—reading, writing, gym, art, or music, where we'll practice drumming rhythms or sing songs.

4:20 Write down my homework assignments and head home.

雪梅

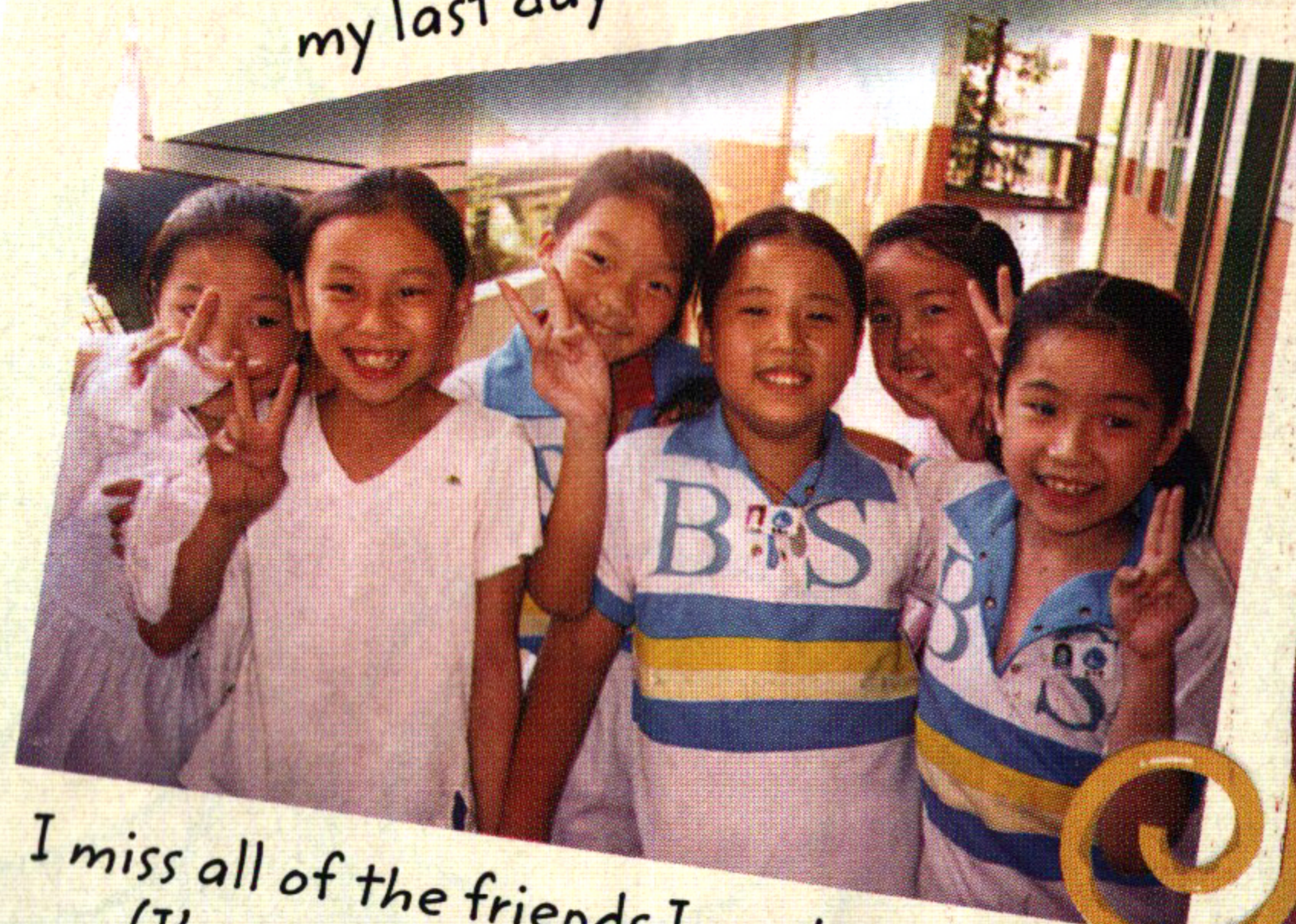
This is my name in Chinese!



Here's my school in China.



My classmates gave me gifts on my last day of school in China.



I miss all of the friends I made at school. (I'm the one in the white T-shirt.)

4:45 Homework.

6:30 Go out to eat with my parents, usually at the university restaurant next to our building.

8:00 I like to watch Chinese TV before going to bed. They have a lot of shows about the emperor and rich people who lived a long time ago and who wore really fancy clothes.

9:30 Bedtime. Sometimes I read one of the English books that we brought with us from home. ★

Funky Pump

Decorate pumpkins with personality!

Use AG's Funny Faces to give your pumpkins great expressions. Cut out features and attach to pumpkins using

tape (double-sided foam mounting tape works best). Add hats, wigs, earrings, and more! ★



kings

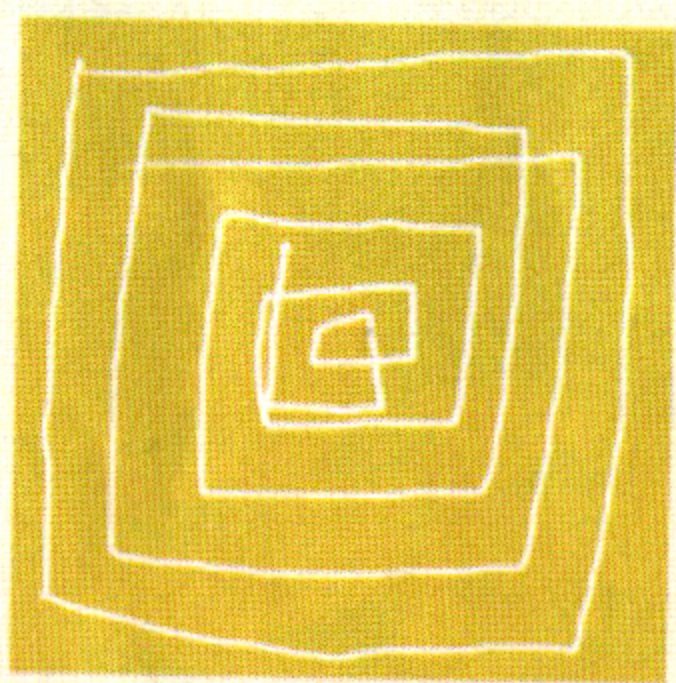


QUIZ!

Project Smarts

This school year, make your projects better than ever!
To find your project style, check a box under each statement.

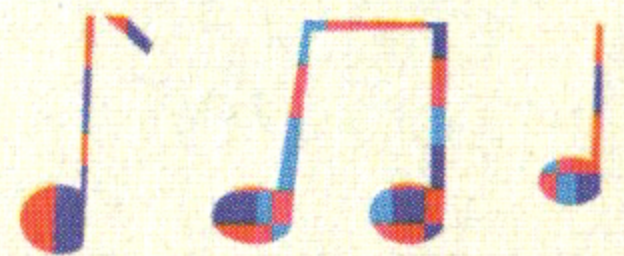
by Dottie Raymer



1 I pick up tunes I hear on the radio and hum them all day.

☒ Yes, sounds like me.

☐ Nope, not usually.



2 I like to hum, whistle, or sing in the shower.

☒ Yes, sounds like me.

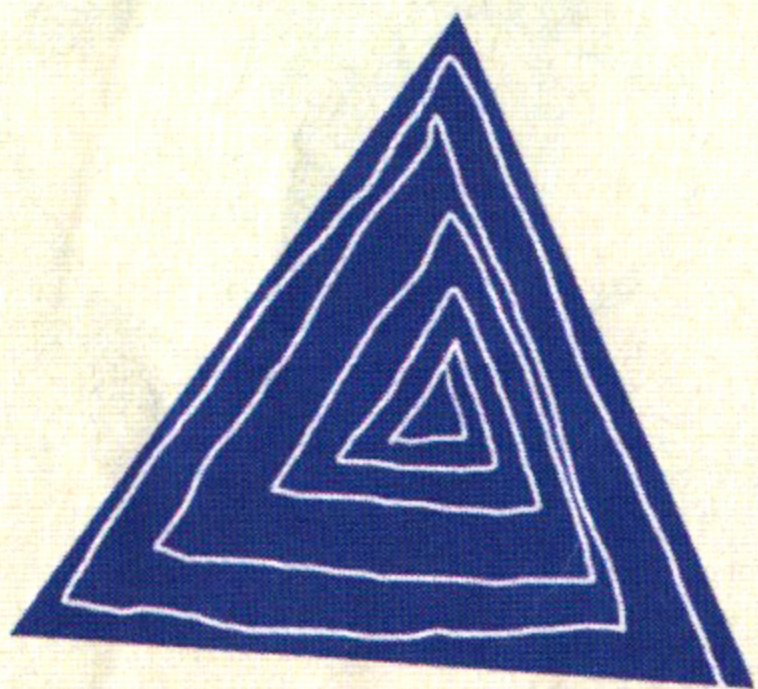
☒ Nope, not usually.



3 If I'm upset, listening to music calms me down.

☒ Yes, sounds like me.

☐ Nope, not usually.



4 If I'm nervous, I talk a lot.

☒ Yes, sounds like me.

☐ Nope, not usually.



5 If I have a good idea, I can get others to go along with it.

☐ Yes, sounds like me.

☒ Nope, not usually.



6 I like doing crossword puzzles and other word games.

☐ Yes, sounds like me.

☒ Nope, not usually.



7 I'd rather draw a map than explain how to get somewhere.

☐ Yes, sounds like me.

☒ Nope, not usually.

8 I like seeing how things are put together.

☒ Yes, sounds like me.

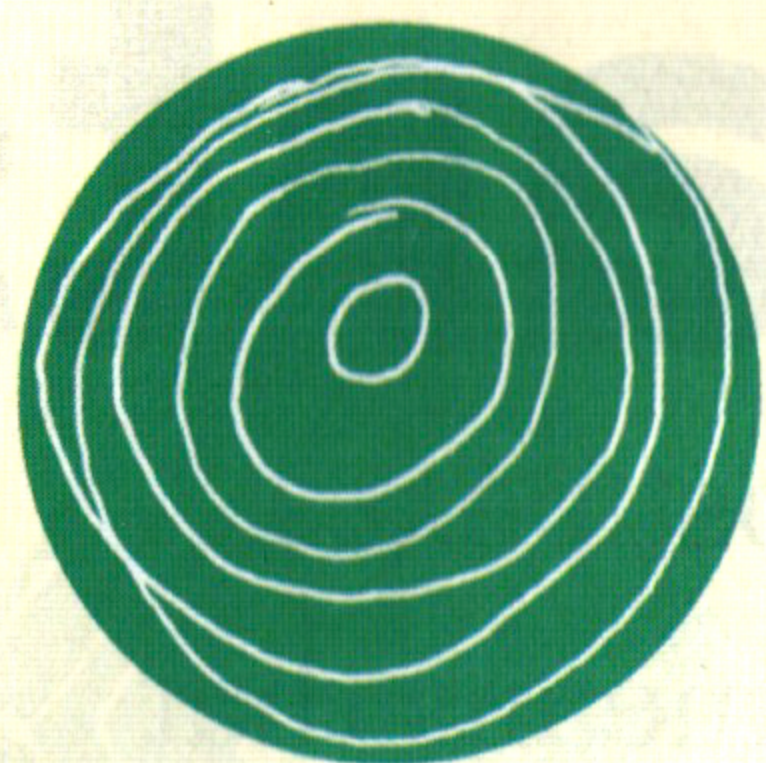
☐ Nope, not usually.

9 When spelling a word, I close my eyes and picture it.

☐ Yes, sounds like me.

☒ Nope, not usually.





10 When I'm upset, I write in my diary.

☒ Yes, sounds like me.

☐ Nope, not usually.



11 I like having quiet time when I can be by myself.

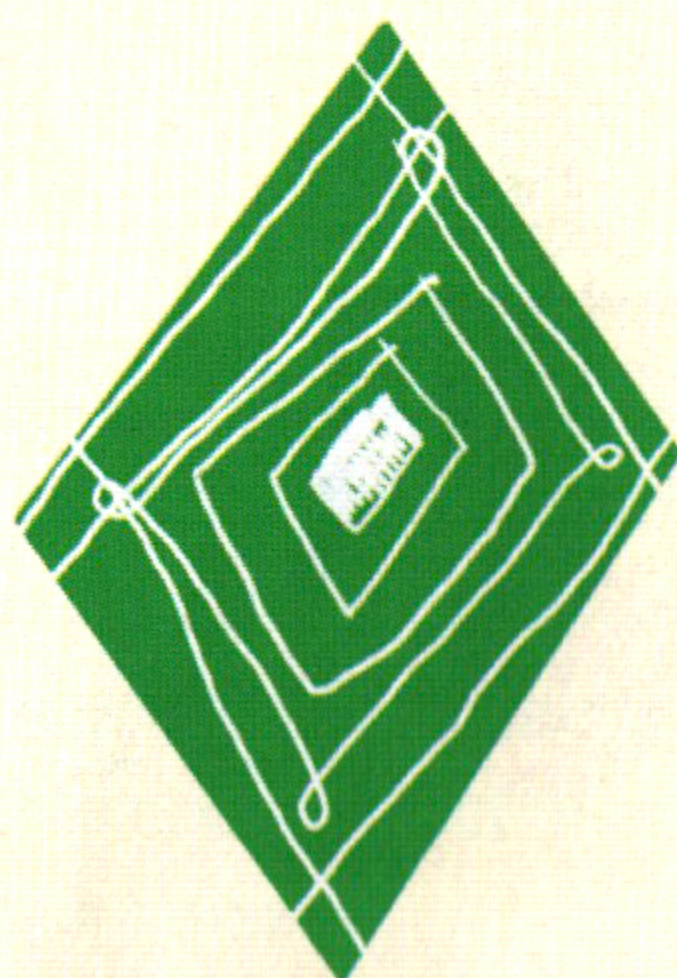
☒ Yes, sounds like me.

☐ Nope, not usually.

12 I'm very aware of my own and other people's moods.

☒ Yes, sounds like me.

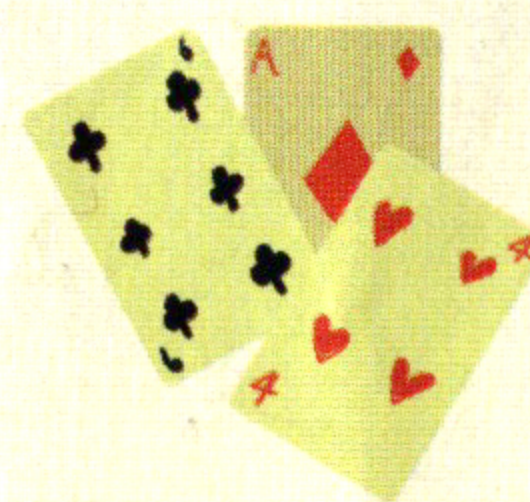
☒ Nope, not usually.



13 I like to play card games and am good at them.

☒ Yes, sounds like me.

☐ Nope, not usually.



14 I like to do math in my head more than on paper.

☐ Yes, sounds like me.

☒ Nope, not usually.

15 I find it easy to remember friends' telephone numbers.

☐ Yes, sounds like me.

☒ Nope, not usually.



16 I like making or building things.

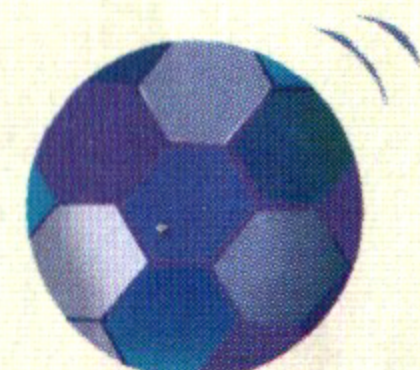
☐ Yes, sounds like me.

☒ Nope, not usually.

17 I pick up new sports moves or dance steps quickly.

☒ Yes, sounds like me.

☐ Nope, not usually.



18 If I'm tense, I feel better if I move around.

☐ Yes, sounds like me.

☒ Nope, not usually.



19 I like watching TV shows about groups of friends.

☒ Yes, sounds like me.

☐ Nope, not usually.



20 I like competing as part of a team.

☒ Yes, sounds like me.

☒ Nope, not usually.

21 I like working with other people on projects.

☒ Yes, sounds like me.

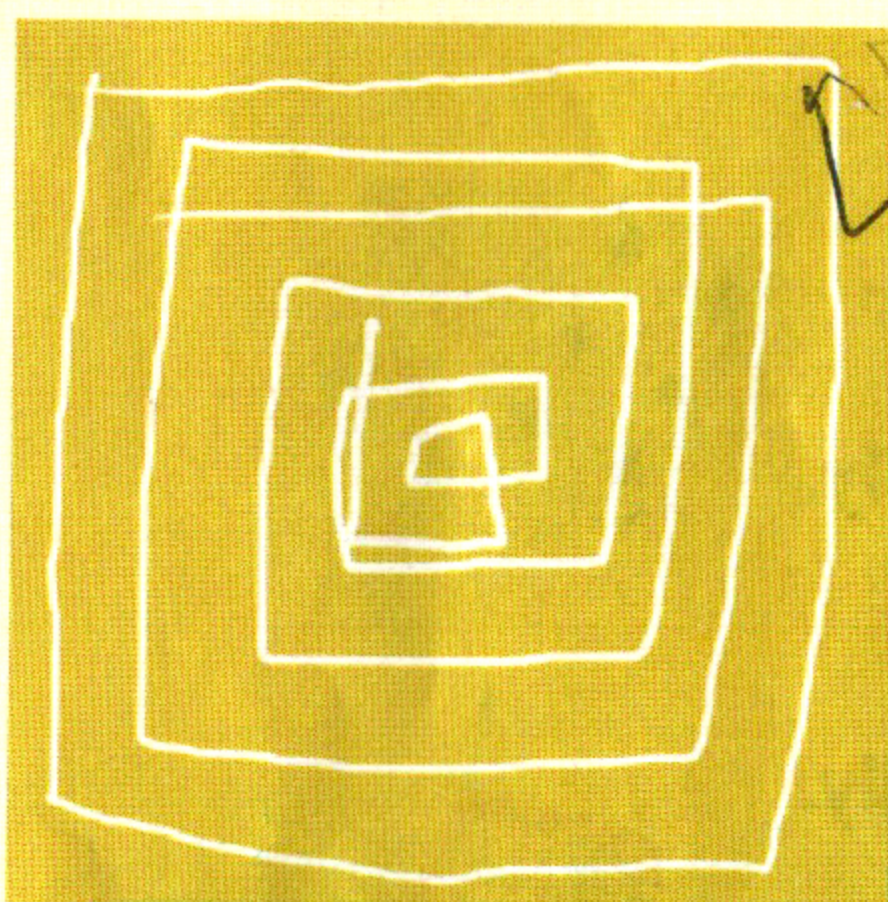
☐ Nope, not usually.

Turn the page to find your style! ➡



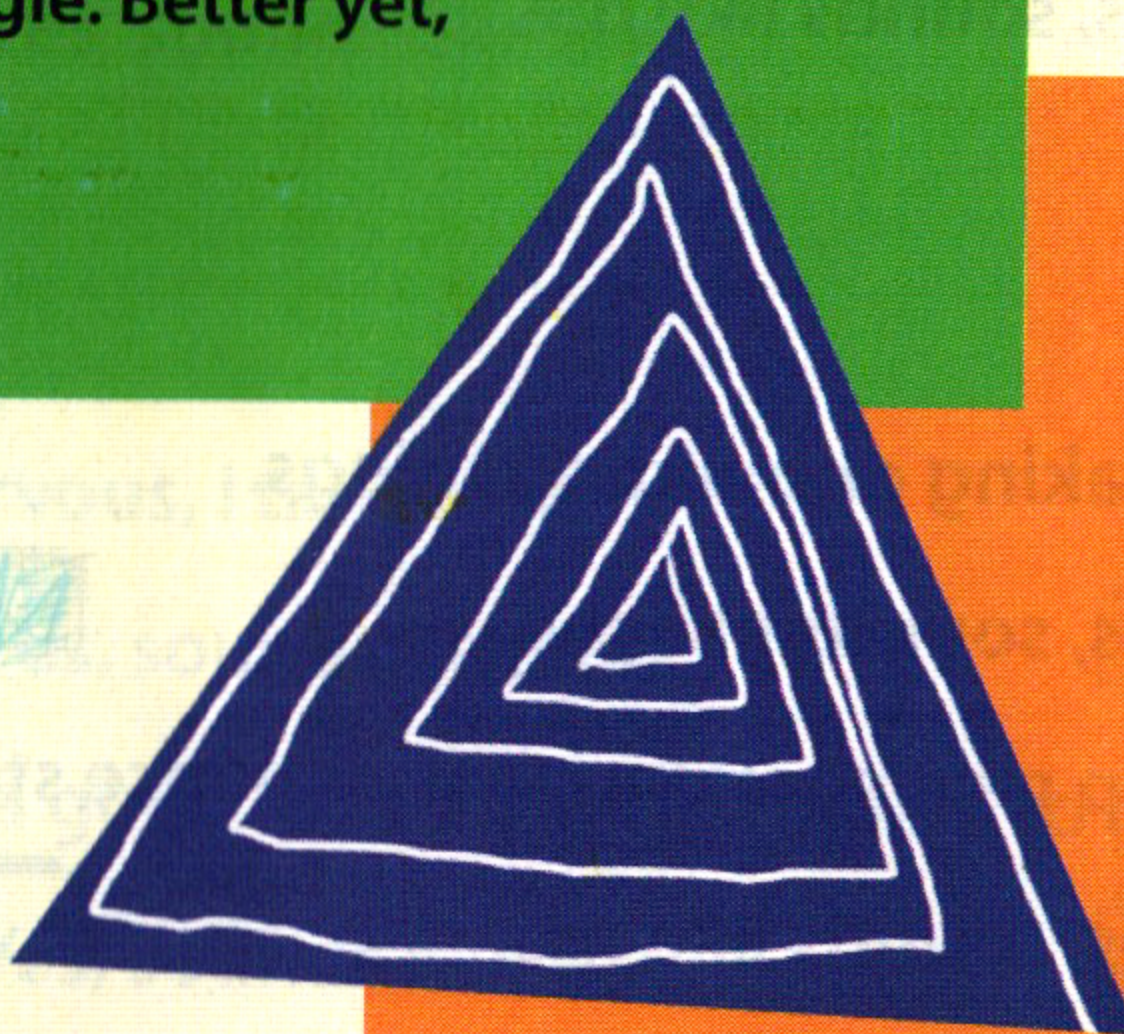
Use Your Smarts

On the previous pages, see which symbol has the most boxes checked YES next to it. Do you have a tie? That just means that you have lots of project options!



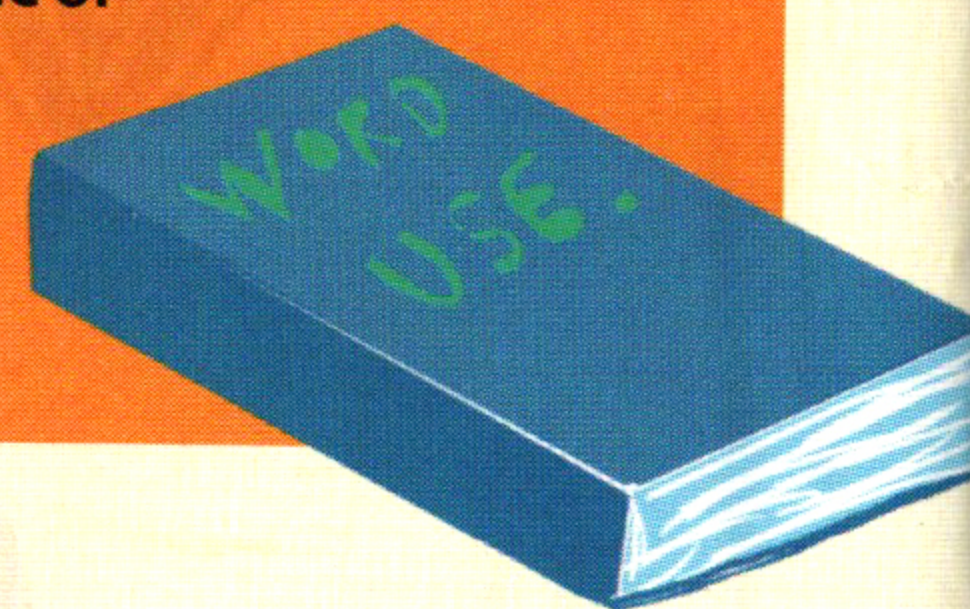
Mostly Squares

You're tuned in to music and the sounds around you. Compose the sound track for a multimedia display. Create a song, jump-rope rhyme, or advertising jingle. Better yet, perform it!



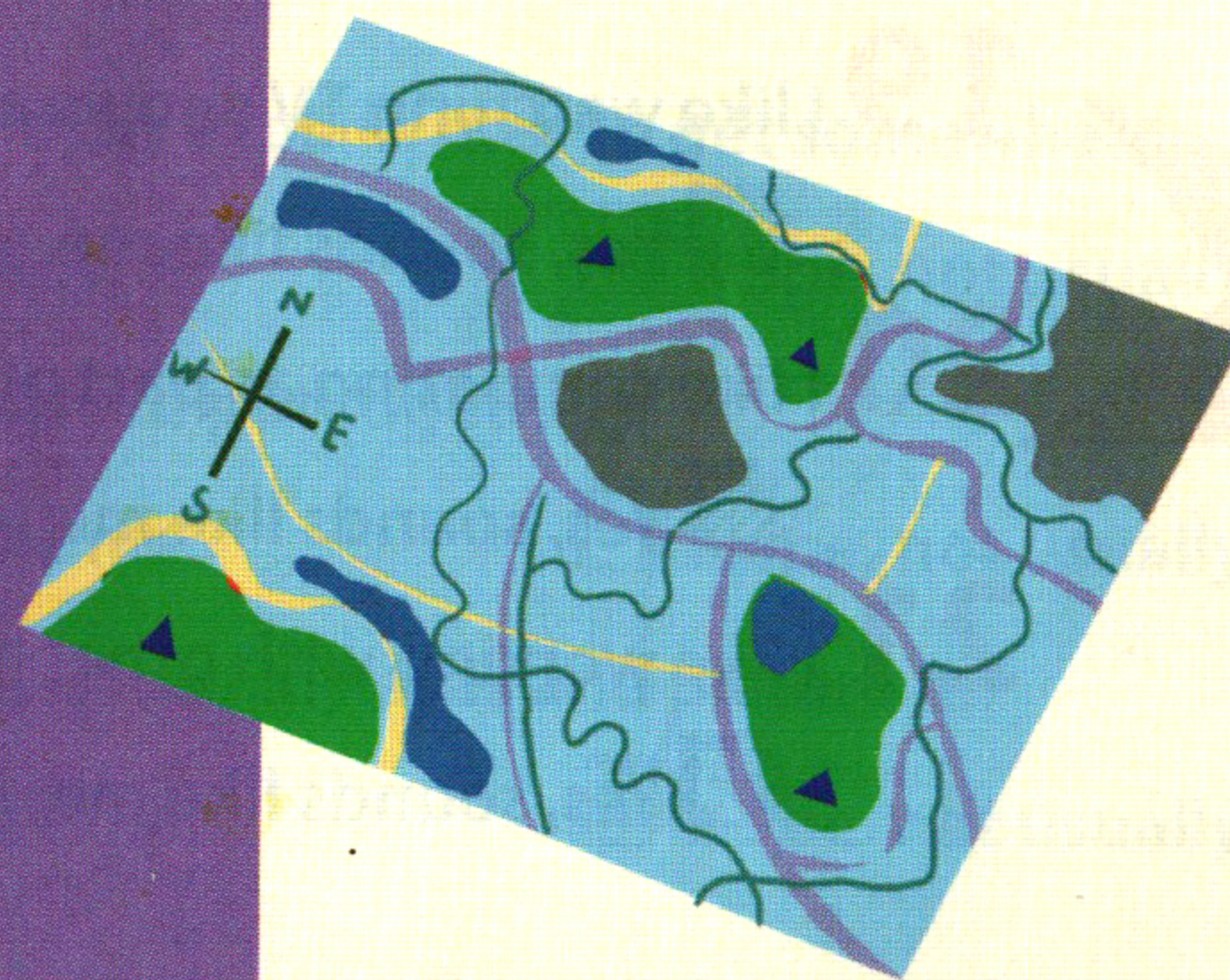
Mostly Triangles

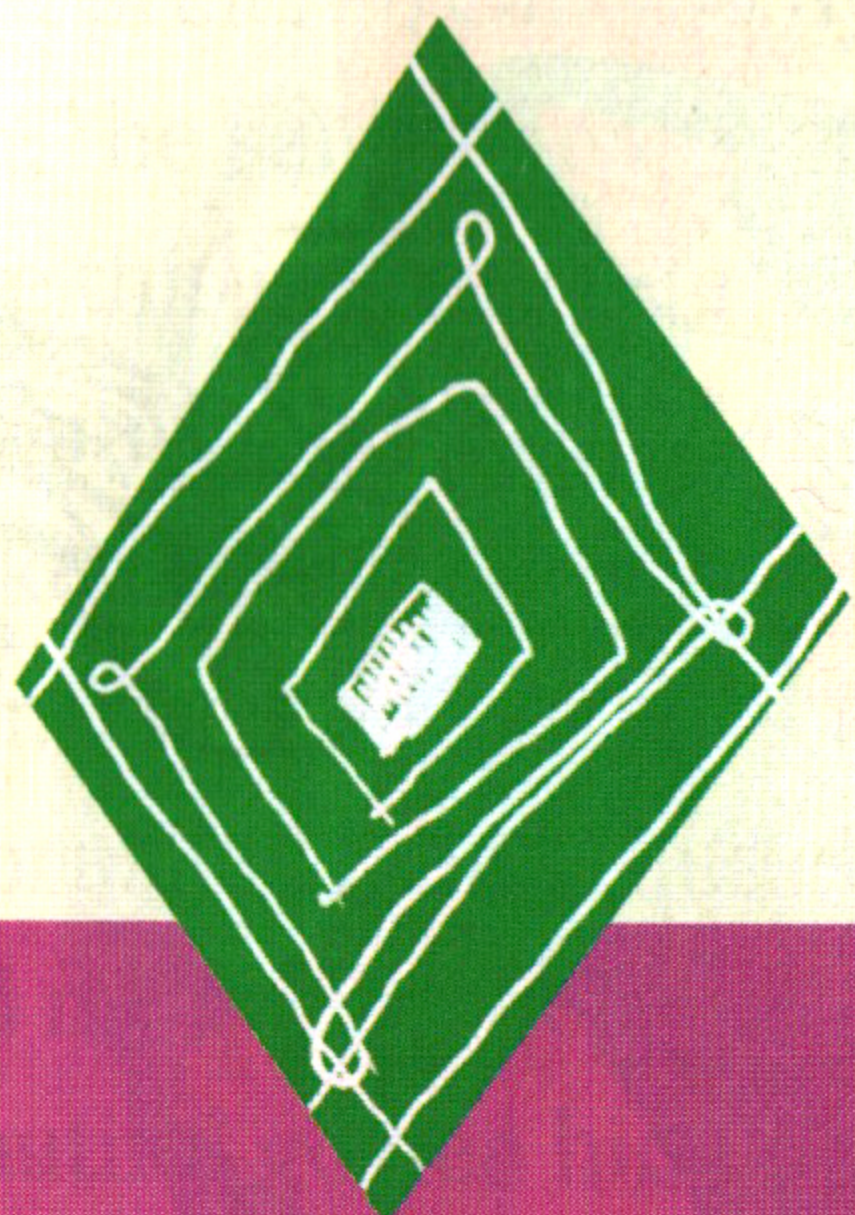
You like words and use them well. Publish a newspaper or a brochure. Write letters or editorials. Make up crossword puzzles or word games. Give a speech on your topic or debate it with a partner.



Mostly Flowers

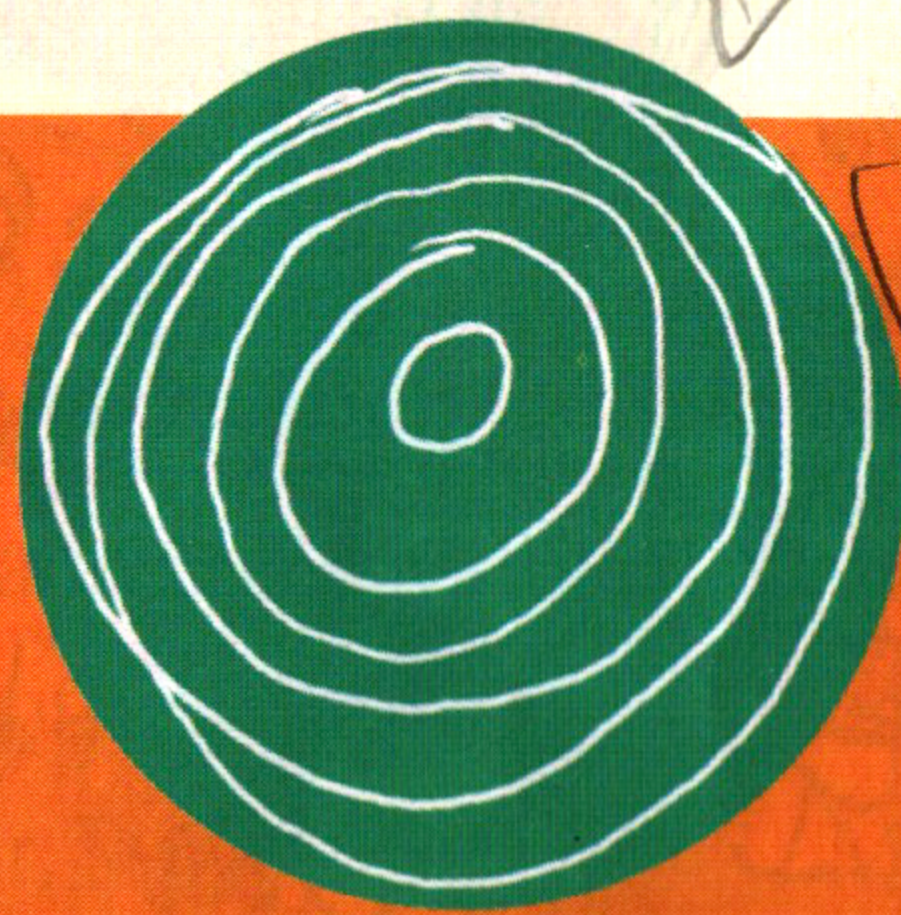
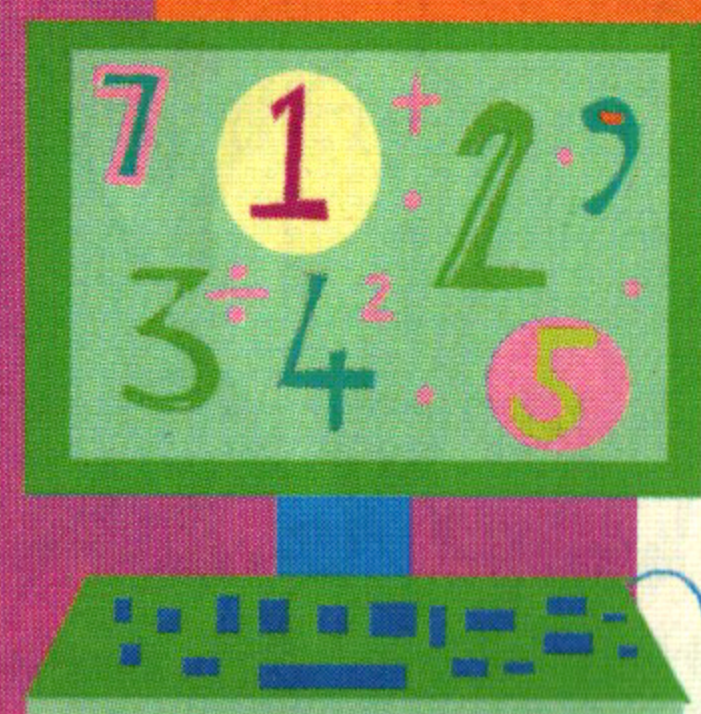
For you, seeing is believing. Draw a diagram, a map, or a poster. Create a logo or a comic strip. Put together a photo album or collage.





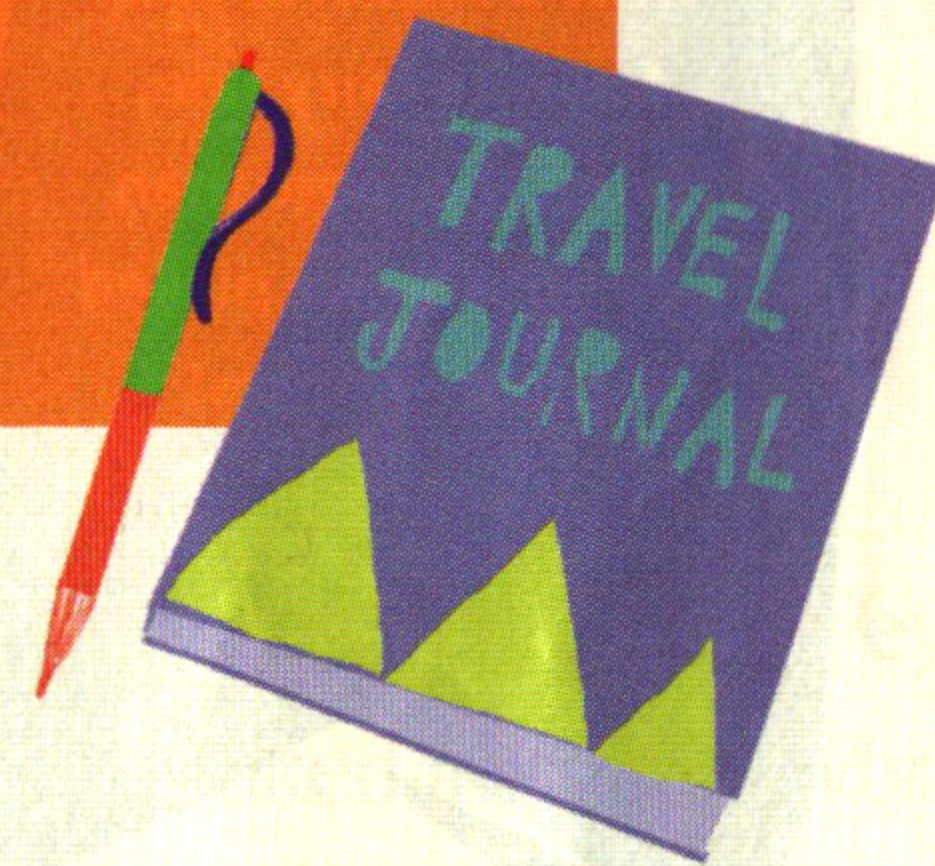
Mostly Diamonds

You're a logical thinker. You're comfortable with numbers and like how they make sense. Set up charts or graphs to display your information. Construct number puzzles or quizzes.



Mostly Circles

You like figuring out what makes you and other people tick. Write a diary or ship's log, or draw a family tree. Collect souvenirs for a scrapbook or travel journal.



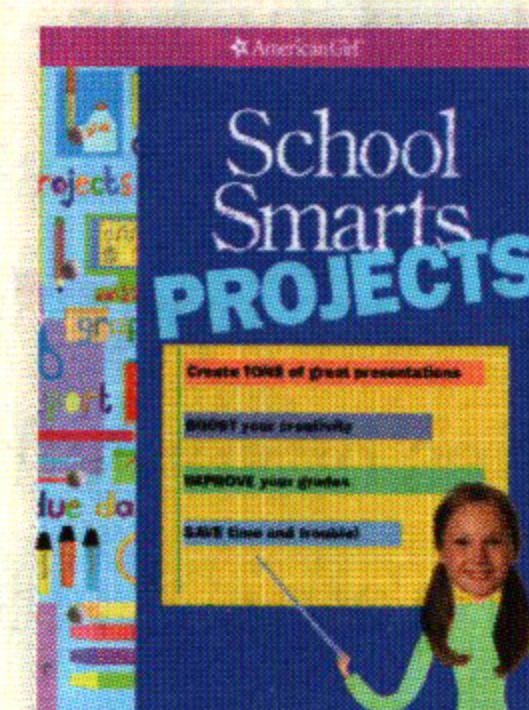
Mostly Hearts

You just want to move. Act out a scene or perform a skit. Cook a meal or demonstrate a science experiment. Choreograph a dance or pantomime performance.



Mostly Stars

You get along well with others and like working with a team. Conduct an interview or survey. Create a role-playing game or teach a lesson on your subject.



For more great ideas, check out *School Smarts Projects*, available in bookstores. ★



Projects

Report

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2005

Contest Winners

Last November, we invited you to write a sequel to your favorite fairy tale. From the more than 600 entries, we picked these winners!



A Royal Mess

by Allison H.

When your mom is the queen, how can you ever measure up?



"Carnation, I need you!" my mother Rapunzel called out from the castle window. I looked down from my tree house, staring at her suspiciously. When she does this, usually something I don't like is going to happen. Like the time she made my room pink and frilly. I'm what my best friend, Paulo, calls a tomboy. Mom and I are opposites. It's like we're from different galaxies or something.

"Yes, ma'am?" I asked.

"Someone's here to see you! Meet me in the ballroom," Mom said.

I jumped down and walked into the castle. As I drew closer to the ballroom, I tiptoed inside and hid behind a pillar. I saw my mother talking to a very skinny lady with a funky hairdo and a muscular man with a very curly mustache. I leaned in closer so

I could hear them.

"Carnation's twelfth birthday is tomorrow, and I want her to look her best at her party," Mom explained to the strangers.

"We can do the makeover today and coordinate the dress tomorrow," Skinny Lady said.

"Actually, her party is tomorrow," Mom said, sounding worried.

"Whatever, darling. We'll do both right now."

"Where is the princess?" Muscle Man asked.

Makeover? No way! I quickly tiptoed to the nearest exit.

"You! Girl!" Muscle Man said as he pointed at me. "Go fetch me the princess," he said.

"Um, Sir Macho, that *is* the princess. Please meet my daughter, Carnation," Mom said with an annoyed voice.



"Call me Cary," I said through gritted teeth as I shook his hand.

"I prefer to call you by your given name, thank you," he said. Then he turned to Mom. "Are you sure this is your daughter, Queen Rapunzel?"

Sir Macho studied me and my mother. He looked at my mother and her golden, long, braided hair. Then he looked at my shoulder-length, brown, unbrushed hair. He studied Mom's elegant gown and my green, worn-out dress. He stared at her beautiful golden high heels and my dirty bare feet. Like I said, different galaxies.

"Of course she's my daughter!" Mom said.

"Let's get started on that makeover!" Skinny Lady said.

I gave an ear-piercing scream and ran past her. Sir Macho bolted ahead of me and blocked my path to the exit. I quickly turned and ran the other way.

"Come back here, you royal ragamuffin!" he shouted at me. He chased me, his face as red as lipstick. Mom was behind him running as fast as she could, and Skinny Lady tripped on her dress

every few feet as she ran. Suddenly, I stumbled over Skinny Lady's little mountain of makeup and landed face-first on the ballroom floor. Sir Macho tripped over me, and Skinny Lady tripped over him. Mom crashed into us with great force, causing her shoe to fly into the air and land on Sir Macho's head, knocking him out.



ome back here, you royal ragamuffin!" he shouted at me.

Skinny Lady was the first to stand up. Her eyes got wider and wider as she looked around. "My makeup! My hairbrushes! My career!" she shrieked in horror.

I wearily glanced around the room, spotting broken containers, makeup smeared all over the floor, pieces of hairbrushes, and torn hair ribbons.

"No makeover! No dresses! So long!" Skinny Lady gathered the remains of her supplies and dragged Sir Macho out the door.





After Madam Maloney (a.k.a. Skinny Lady) had her tantrum and slammed the door, Mother gave me the young-lady-I-don't-know-why-you-make-such-a-big-deal-out-of-these-things-and-you'd-better-get-your-act-together-because-I-do-these-things-for-your-own-good lecture. Afterward, she took me to the marketplace and made me try on ball gowns. I could barely breathe in them, and they all contained jewels, too-bright colors, frilly hems, and itchy fabric.

Finally, I grabbed a silky yellow dress with only a few gems and ruffles on the sleeves and showed it to my mom. After she approved it with a sigh, we headed for the salon. I made Mom promise no makeup—just a new, simple, non-major hairstyle. The hairdresser washed my hair, gave it some little curls, and pulled it back.

“Behave yourself,” Mom reminded me as we walked to the ballroom. “Remember: walk in, greet friends, and offer refreshments while we wait for everyone.”

“Hey, Cary! Happy birthday!” Paulo said as he handed me a gift wrapped in dark green cloth. *At least someone appreciates me being non-fancy*, I thought.



Lots of other people walked in after Paulo. Friends from the neighborhood, royal guys, family, and even Sir Macho and Madam Maloney came (not looking very happy). Sir Macho had a black eye, probably caused by the ruckus yesterday, and Madam Maloney had a grim expression. Sir Macho gave me a disgusted look as he made eye contact with me. *Don't think I wanted to come to your little party*, his angry look seemed to say. He gave me the evil glare all throughout the party.



Grabbing a handful of mashed potatoes, I aimed for Gregorio's big head.

Gregorio, a rival of mine, also noticed Sir Macho's evil glare. “Is your boyfriend angry at you, Princess Cary? Or did you just dump him?” Gregorio teased me.

“Be quiet, you royal pain,” I muttered.

“I'm so terrified!” he said as he pretended to look scared.

I couldn't tame my anger. Grabbing a handful of mashed potatoes, I aimed for Gregorio's big head. The mushy food smacked his hair before he could duck. He was furious. He picked up his plate and threw it across the table, causing food to splatter in every direction.

The other kids watched in delight. The adults looked shocked. And Mom looked horrified. Before she could say anything, someone threw a chicken at Paulo. Soon, everyone started throwing food everywhere. Roasted hen, mashed potatoes, juicy pork, thick pudding, French bread, globs of butter, and puddles of gravy were soaring through the air.



Even though I was in a fancy dress at a boring birthday ball, I was having the time of my life. *Now this is what I call a party!* I thought happily as I hurled a chicken leg into the air. Then I saw Mom give me the Carnation-don't-think-you're-going-to-get-away-with-this-because-we-are-going-to-have-a-talk-after-this look.

"For the millionth time, I'm sorry!" I said to Mom as I pulled some chicken out of my hair. We had just said good-bye to the last guest and were heading back into the castle.

"I just don't understand why you and I always disagree and why you have to make a big fuss over things I do for you," Mom said.

"It's not only me who makes a fuss, it's you too! Like the times I bring a lizard into the castle, and you shriek and make me get rid of it. Or the times I play with Paulo and you tell me how I should try to make friends with more girls," I pointed out.

Just then, Mom tripped and landed on her rear end. I gave a faint giggle at the sight of my mom, the everything-must-be-perfect queen, on the ground. I held out a hand to help her up but instead she gave me a sly smile and pulled me down in the mud with her. She plopped a handful of mud on top of my head and I threw it back at

her. She was smothered with mud, from her blond hair to her dainty slippers.

Walking by us, someone might have seen a woman and a girl looking like unbelievably dirty pigs in dresses. But I didn't care. My mom, for the first time in my twelve-year-old life, seemed human. ★



Meet the Author



Allison H.

One thing that I don't like about fairy tales is that characters don't seem down-to-earth. When I wrote this story, I wanted Carnation to seem very realistic!

Allison, age 11, lives in Texas.



Happily Never After

Once upon a time, Fairy Tale Land was not a happy place.

by Jandrea N.





Oder! Order! This is enough!" Jacob Grimm yelled. "The case of the objecting fairy tales will come to order. Princess, go ahead."

The Grimm brothers, Jacob and Wilhelm, were sitting outside the enormous castle in Fairy Tale Land. A mob of angry characters was standing before them.

"I think it's ridiculous and vulgar to make me kiss a frog! A princess of my standards would never stoop as low as to let a frog be my friend. It's disgusting and slimy. Even if he did turn into a prince."



"All right, Princess Melissa, we'll make a change in the Frog Prince story," said Jacob.

"Who's next?"

"We are! We are!" came a voice.

"I can't see you," called Jacob.

"That's something we want changed. We elves are tired of being so small. We want human qualities!" screeched an amazingly tiny elf.

"Oh, it's you. The elves from 'The Elves and the Shoemaker.' I suppose we could make you a little taller. It wouldn't hurt," agreed Wilhelm Grimm.

"We also want some gratitude for making all those shoes! It's hard work," said a chubby elf.

"If I recall correctly, Mrs. Shoemaker made some very nice clothes for you in return for the shoes you made," answered Jacob calmly.

"Big deal! If we can make shoes, we are smart enough to make clothes, too. Just because we are height-impaired doesn't mean we're dumb!" shouted a little elf in a voice twice her size.

"I'll make note of that," said Jacob. "Who's next?"

"I am," called a small girl from the back.

"Ah, Little Red Riding Hood. I was wondering if you would come. Surely a sweet little girl like you has nothing to complain about," called Wilhelm hopefully.



"You bet I do!" she said with attitude. The Grimm brothers groaned. "You think I can't tell the difference between an ugly old wolf and my own grandmother? So maybe I'm not the sharpest tool in the box, but I know I don't need glasses."

"No, I'm sure you don't. But really, dear, how else could it be?" Jacob asked.

"Surely a sweet little girl like you has nothing to complain about."

"How about if I save Grandmother and kill the wolf?" suggested Little Red Riding Hood.

The brothers looked at each other.

"All right, everybody. Stop!" cried Jacob, but then seeing that everyone was still talking, he threw up his hands and yelled, "SILENCE!"



A hush went over the crowd.

"Now," Jacob leaned over the table, "it's my professional opinion that we leave the fairy tales the way they are. As the founders of Grimm, Inc., we are the ones who wrote your stories. Your changes could ruin them."



The room was in an uproar.

"No!" called out Snow White.

"After all, we're the ones in the stories!" cried Sleeping Beauty.

"Fine! What else?" said Jacob, knowing he was beaten.

"Well, there should be some changes made to our story, too," called a voice.

"Why, Hansel and Gretel. Whatever is the matter? You push the old witch into the oven. She doesn't eat you," replied Wilhelm.

"It isn't about the witch, it's about the bread crumbs. We should throw something sturdy," Gretel said.

"But if you did, you'd find your way home and there would be no story," objected Jacob.

"That is your problem, Mr. Grimm," said Gretel with a flip of her hair.

"We'll do our best, Hansel and Gretel. Anybody else?" asked Wilhelm.

"I have a problem," said a beautiful girl in rags.

"Cinderella? Not you, too?" cried Jacob. "What do you need changed?"

"Those awful glass slippers!" she said, rubbing her feet. "Have you ever tried to dance in glass shoes? Couldn't I wear sneakers or something?"

"Cinderella? In SNEAKERS?"

"Why, yes. That's all right, isn't it?" asked Cinderella.

"Sure. O.K. This is enough for today. Everyone go home!" shouted Wilhelm.



Jacob and Wilhelm," Princess Melissa cried, "why are people storming Fairy Tale Land and throwing tomatoes?"

Her friends were behind her—Hansel and Gretel, Little Red Riding Hood, Cinderella, and all the others.

"It seems they don't like your new image. They liked the old you," answered Wilhelm.

All the story characters looked dismayed.

"All right, I'll go kiss a frog," said Melissa.

"Make me trust the wolf again!" called Little Red Riding Hood.

"We can be short again!" yelled several elves.

"I can hurt my feet some more," said Cinderella.

One by one, each character went home,



promising to be the way they had always been. After a few days, Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, and several others gathered in front of the Grimm brothers once more.

"Jacob and Wilhelm, you were right," said Little Red Riding Hood. "I'm happy that I'm back to the way I used to be."

"Me too," said Cinderella.

"And I like that no one is throwing tomatoes at me anymore!" said Princess Melissa.

"No kidding," agreed one of the elves.

"I'm glad you've all finally come to your senses," said Jacob. He sighed with relief.

Wilhelm smiled. "Fairy Tale Land is happy once again!" ★



Meet the Author



Jandrea N.

I love "The Twelve Dancing Princesses." It's a magical fairy tale, but I've always wondered if the youngest princess is happy at the end. That's how I got this idea!

Jandrea, age 13, lives in Wisconsin.

Honorable mentions go to:

Stephanie B.
Age 12, Tennessee

Rebekah D.
Age 12, Illinois

Eliza W.
Age 14, Arizona

Jessica N.
Age 12, California

Valerie Z.
Age 11, Alaska

Chelsea D.
Age 13, Massachusetts

New Story Contest!

It's time for another story contest. Here are the rules:

1 Write a story that includes the scene that is illustrated below. Give your story a spring setting. All characters in your story must be original creations.

2 Include your first and last name, address, phone number, and birth date. You and your parent must sign your story, stating that you made it up.

3 Your story shouldn't be longer than five handwritten pages or three typed pages.

4 Mail your story to the address on page 2 by October 10. Winners will appear in the May/June 2006 issue.



Illustration: Jennifer Kalis

activities and puzzles



A vibrant, cartoon-style illustration of a children's library. The room is filled with orange-brown bookshelves packed with colorful books. Several children are enjoying their time: a girl with long brown hair sits on a large red beanbag chair reading; a boy with curly brown hair and glasses stands in the center holding a book; a girl with blonde hair sits on a red armchair reading; a girl with brown hair sits on a blue armchair reading; a boy with red hair sits on the floor reading; and a girl with curly brown hair sits on the floor reading. There are potted plants on top of the shelves, and stacks of books are scattered on the floor. The overall atmosphere is cozy and inviting for young readers.

Science Class

Each student must have safety glasses and a microscope to take science. Look in the lab class. How many students can take this class at once?



Photo Fun

It's school photo time! Read the photographer's notes, then use the grid to match each student's name with her picture.

We've done the first one.

1. Nicole's wearing a lot of red.
2. Emily has short hair.
3. Catherine's wearing white.
4. Alexa wears bangs.

Letisha S.

Alexa S.

Nicole E.

Emily I.

Catherine B.



age 11,
New York



age 13,
Wisconsin



age 11,
Louisiana



age 13,
New Mexico



age 10,
Washington

	Letisha S.	Alexa S.	Nicole E.	Emily I.	Catherine B.
	no	no	no	yes	no
	no	yes	no	no	no
	no	no	no	no	yes
	yes	no	no	no	no
	no	no	yes	no	no

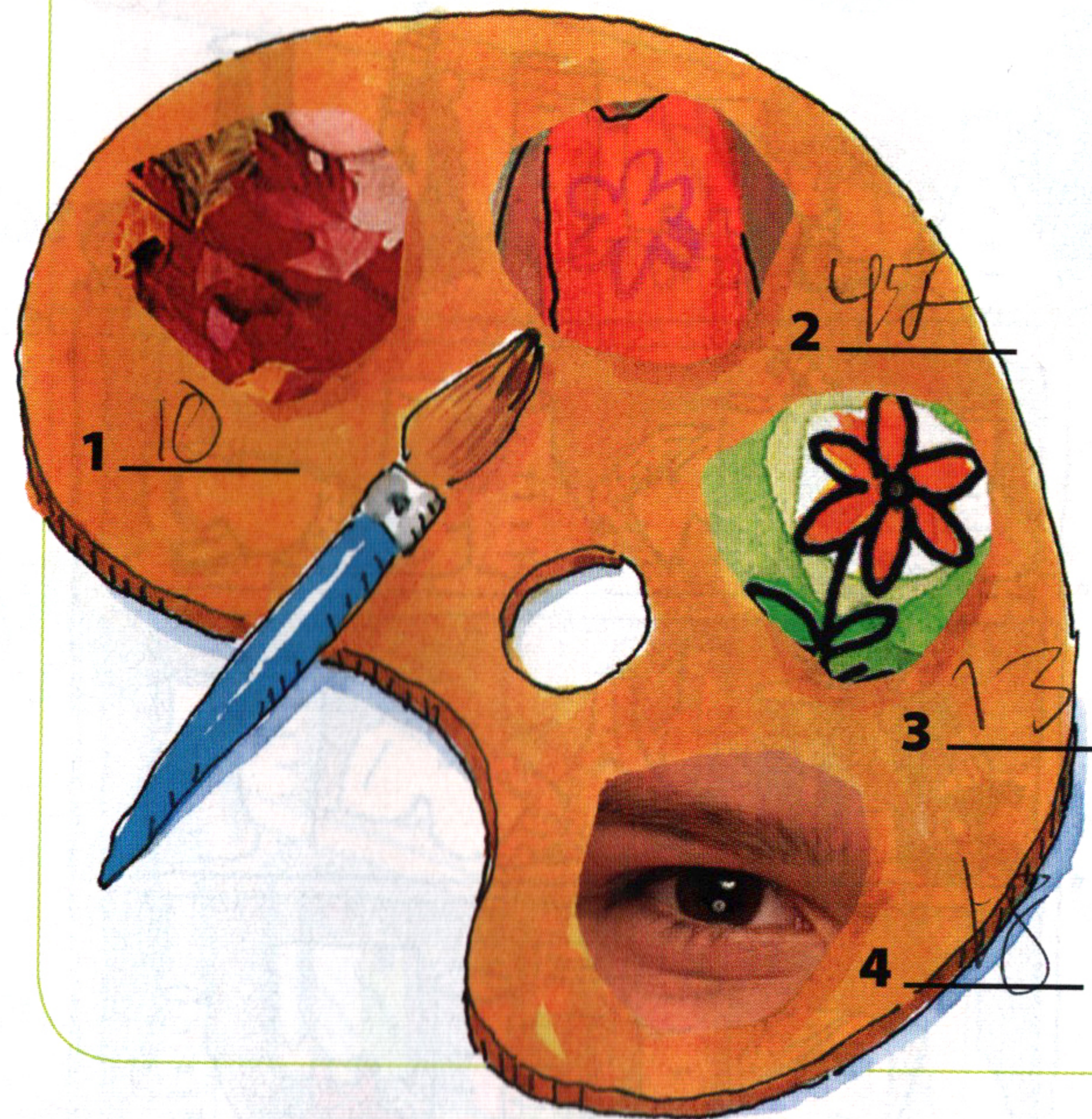
French Class

Correct each sentence in this essay about Paris. Each sentence has one extra letter and one letter missing. We've done the first one for you.



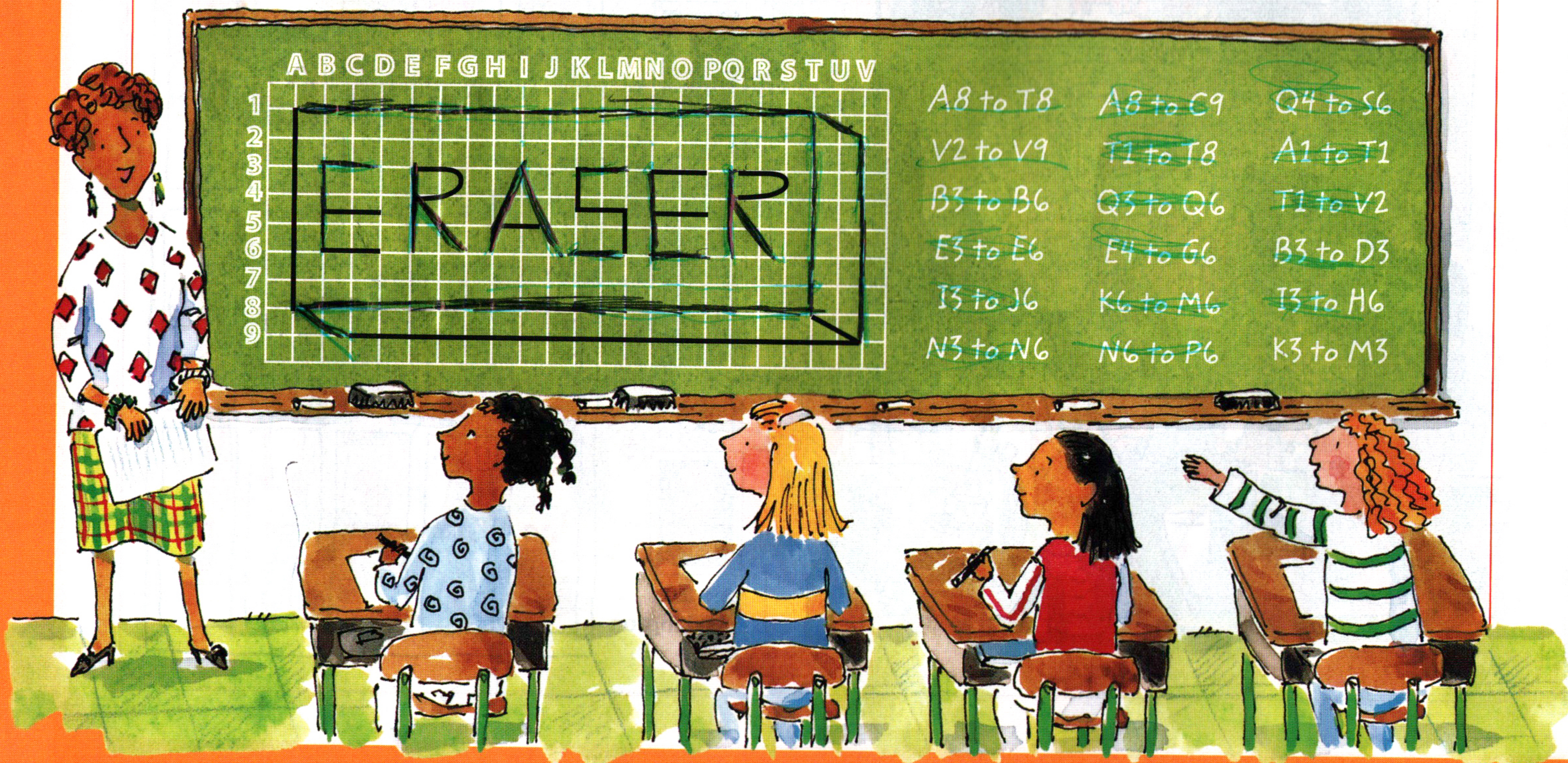
Art Sleuth

Search the pages of this issue to find where each snippet of the photo or illustration shown below came from. Write down where you found it.



Math Class

You'll need this school supply to help out with math work. Finish the drawing by connecting the grid points shown at right.



Gym Class

Fill in each blank with a word from the list below to form a different word.

Cross off each word from the list as you use it.



Word List

- ball
- field
- teams
- race
- rope
- shorts
- sweat
- tag
- fit

1. Eu rope

2. t fun k

3. ball oon

4. graf fit i

5. g race ful

6. s teams hip

7. Sweat er

8. shorts top

9. corn field

10. s tag e

Laffateria

What did the clock in the cafeteria do when it was still hungry?



It went back for seconds.

Brooke M.
Age 10, Wisconsin

What do vampires wear in the fall?



Bat-to-school clothes.

Victoria B.
Age 10, Georgia

What candy should you eat on the playground?



Recess Pieces.

Sarah K.
Age 12, Indiana

What is the study of back-to-school shopping called?



Buy-ology.

Taylor F.
Age 11, Virginia

What did the school football coach say to the banker?

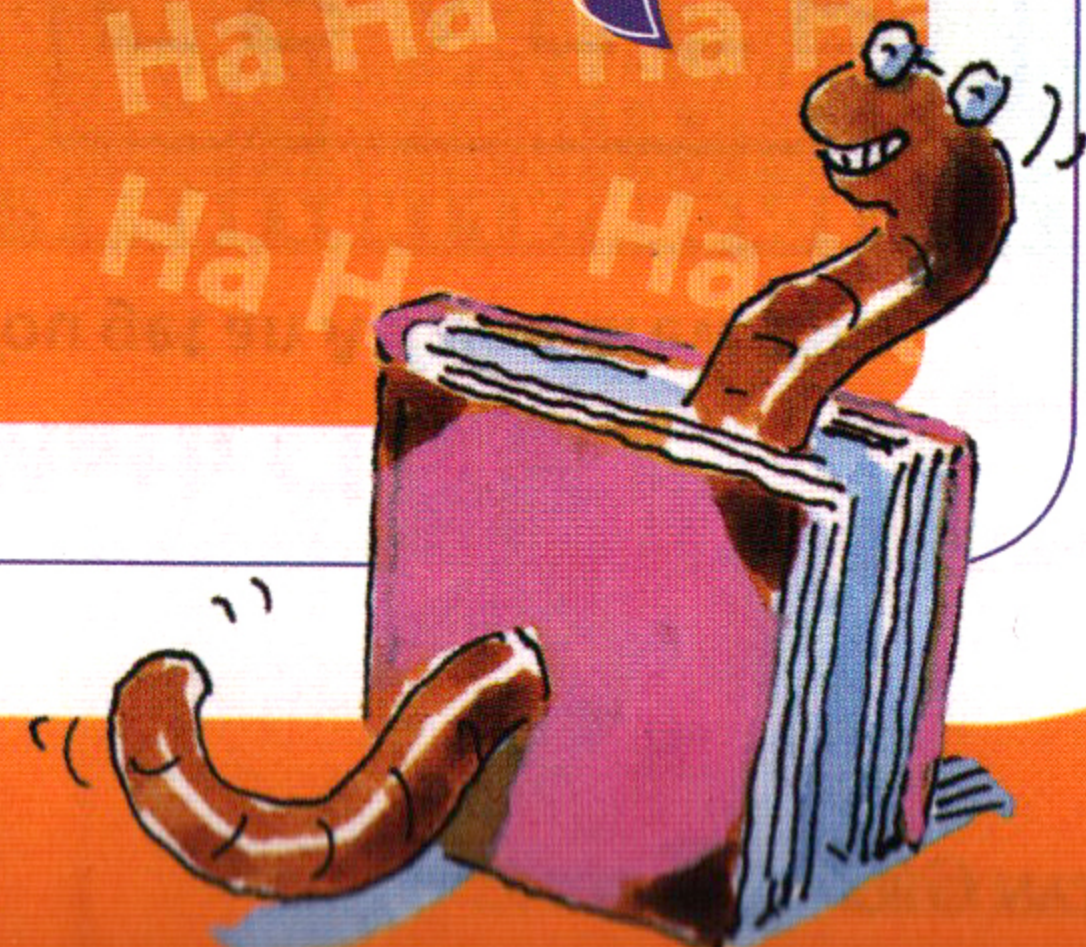


I want my quarter back!

Sidney B.
Age 10, Iowa

Funny Business

Send your best joke to Brain Waves! Write to the address on page 2. Include your name, birth date, school photo, and signature.



Can You Do It?

Do your school work by trying these A+ challenges.

Math Test

Counting by sevens, what's the highest number you can count to?

I could count to _____ by sevens.

7... 14... 21... 28...



Teacher, Teacher

The "teacher" says, "Teacher, teacher in the class. No more joking, no more laughs." Then the teacher does crazy things to get each "student" to laugh. Last one to laugh gets an A+.

Best in class: _____

Passing Notes

You and a friend sit back to back and each write five words to describe your cafeteria—no peeking! Now switch and compare your lists. Did any words match? Now try your principal, school mascot, or locker.

Our best number of matches: _____



Answer Box

Art Sleuth

1. page 9; 2. page 47; 3. page 13; 4. page 18

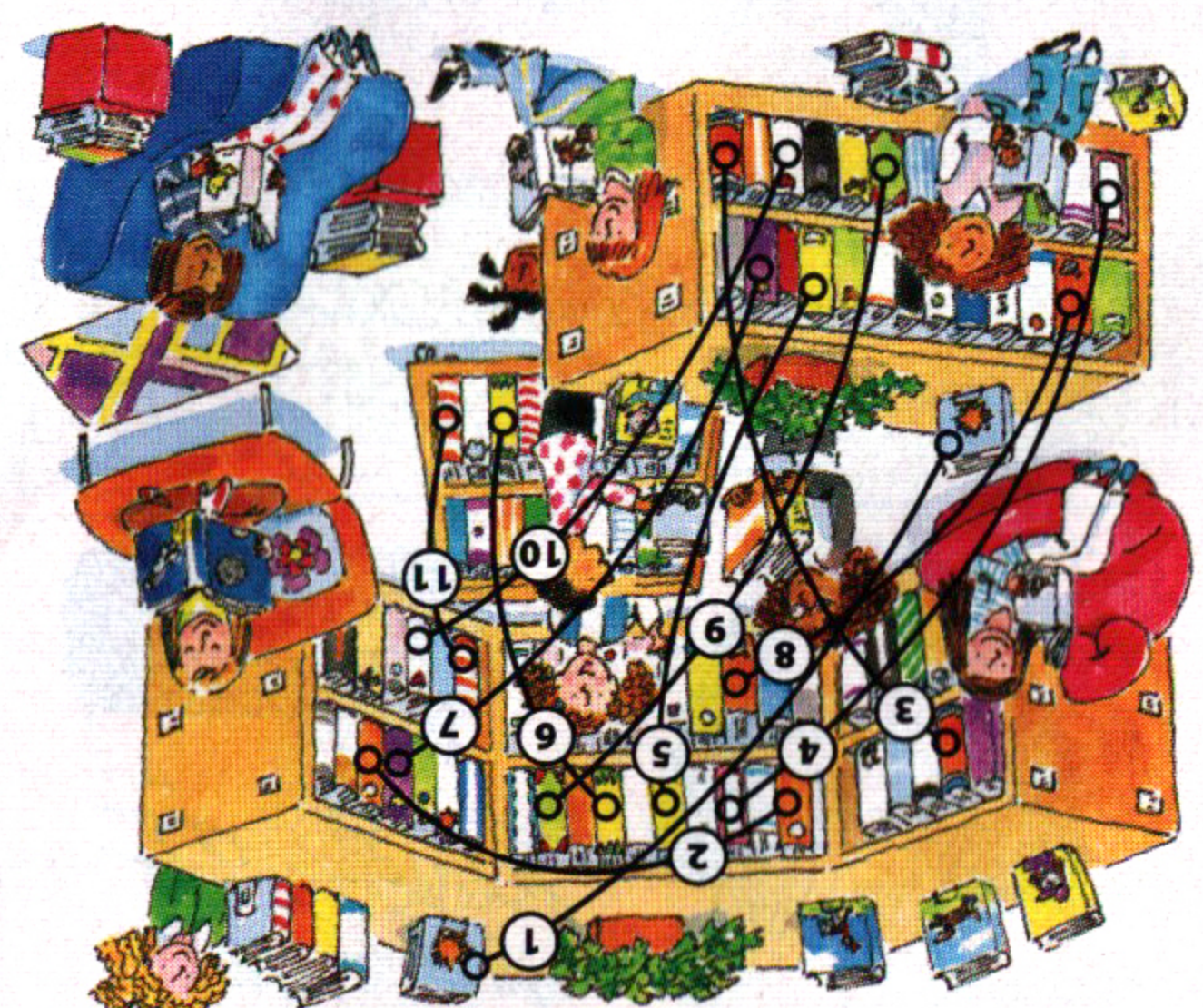
French Class

Letisha S., age 13, New Mexico; Alexa S., age 13, Wisconsin; Nicole E., age 10, Washington; Emily I., age 11, New York; Catherine B., age 11, Louisiana

Photo Fun

The class has 10 pairs of safety glasses and 9 microscopes, so only 9 students can take the class.

Science Class



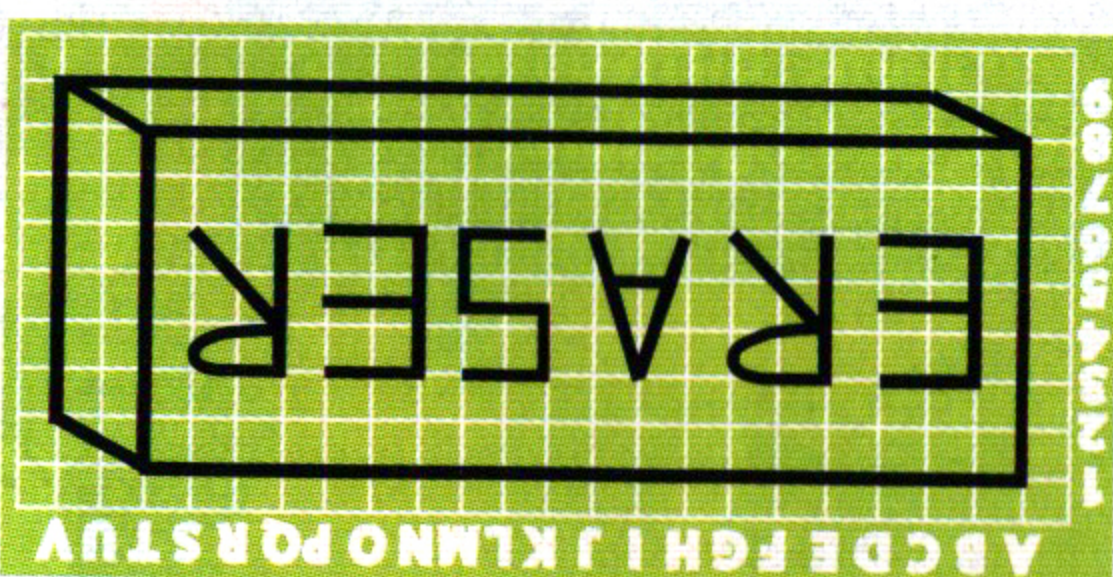
The Library

The library has 11 books with pairs.

Buzzword

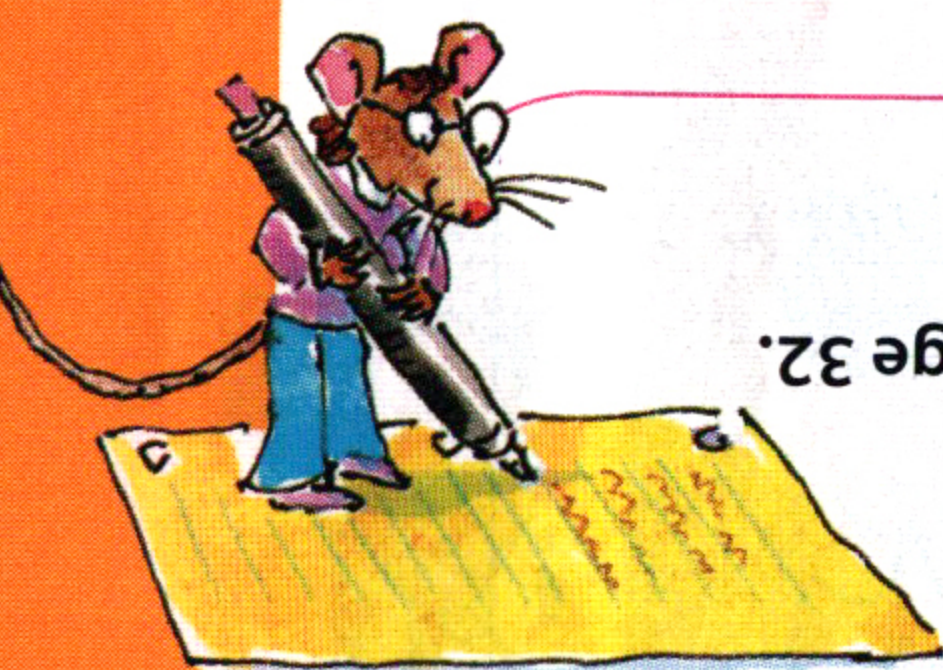
1. Europe 2. trunk 3. balloon 4. graffiti 5. graceful 6. steamship 7. sweater 8. shortstop 9. cornfield 10. stage

Gym Class



Math Class

You get an A if you drew this:



HELP!

Dear American Girl,

Whenever I have to do a school project, my mom takes over. She even says she'll be doing most of the work. How can I ask her to stop helping so much?

Helped Out

You know it isn't right for your mom to do your work for you, and deep down, your mom knows that, too. To remind her, you can say, "Mom, if I don't do the work, I won't learn anything." It's fine for her to help you come up with ideas for your project, figure out a timeline for getting it done, and check your finished work. But if she wants to do a project *with* you, suggest that you make a craft, do a scrapbook, or bake cookies together instead.



Dear American Girl,

I'm a cheerleader this year and I want to sit with the cheerleaders at lunch. I want to sit with my other friends, too, but they don't like the cheerleaders. I wanna sit with both.

upset cheerleader

Even though you'd like to sit with all your friends, it will probably



be too hard to mix these groups together. If you've been sitting with your old friends for a long time, they'll be upset if you suddenly start sitting with the cheerleaders. Since you already see your cheerleader friends during practice and at games, you might want to keep spending lunchtime with your old friends. That way, you're sure to spend time with everyone.



Dear American Girl,

I want to write a great story, but every time I try, I just end up chewing on the end of my pencil and staring into space.

want to write

If writing a whole story seems like a gigantic task, just write a little every day about anything you care about. Don't worry about making it a story

or making it great, though. Just have fun. Then brainstorm. Every story has a problem in it, so think of some good ones. Pick the one you like best and write about it. Remember: No writer gets her story just right the first time, so go back and rewrite parts you're not happy with. Ask others to read your story and share their advice, too. Writing will get easier—and better—with practice, so don't give up!



Dear American Girl,

My parents both smoke. I hate it and it worries me. When I try to get them to stop, they say they can't. I need help.

Scared

Smoking is bad for your parents' health, and it's bad for yours, too. Nagging won't get them to stop, but you can write them a letter telling them how much you love them and asking them to talk to their doctor about ways to quit smoking. You can also ask them to please smoke outside to help keep you healthy. Whatever they decide to do, you can decide right now to never try smoking yourself.

MORE HELP!

Dear American Girl,

I can't keep my locker organized. When I open it up, things fall out. Since it takes a long time to find things, I'm always late for class. How can I be more organized?

Disorganized

Start by taking out every book, sweater, project, folder, and hand-out. Put back only the things you know you'll need, and take home the rest. To keep your locker clutter-free, get in the habit of removing old stuff. You can also color-code your books and folders to make them easier to find. For example, put a red cover on your math book and use a red folder for math papers. With a little effort, you'll keep your locker clean—and be on time for class!



Dear American Girl,

There's a girl in my class who often comes up to me surrounded by friends and says with a smirk, "I think you're really pretty." I know she's being rotten, but I guess she thinks I'm too dumb to figure out that she means the opposite. How do I deal with her?

A Victim



You need to let this bully know that you understand what's going on. One way to do that is to look annoyed and walk away. Another way is to look her in the eye, use her exact same tone, and say, "Thanks, I think you're really nice." You have to act very confident for that to work, though, so you may want to practice at home in front of a mirror. If you don't feel comfortable or safe trying that, talk to an adult who knows this girl about what's happening.



Dear American Girl,

I'm scared of almost everything—scary movies, Halloween, spooky costumes, and spiders!

I try to overcome the fear, but it won't go away. What should I do?

Scaredy Cat

Some kids love getting goosebumps, but some don't. That's O.K.

If you know that going to a haunted house or monster movie will make you miserable, skip it. If you do see something scary, try to find a way to laugh about it. Is there a vampire displayed on your neighbor's lawn? Imagine him doing the Hokey-Pokey with his monster friends. Is there a big spider on the wall? Give it a silly name and say hi. If you can laugh at what scares you, it won't seem nearly as frightening.



Advice from You

"Do you have trouble getting up in the morning? If so, try this trick. Set your alarm clock as far away from your bed as possible. When it wakes you up, you will have to walk to turn it off. The walking will wake you up a little bit, so you'll be ready to start the day!"

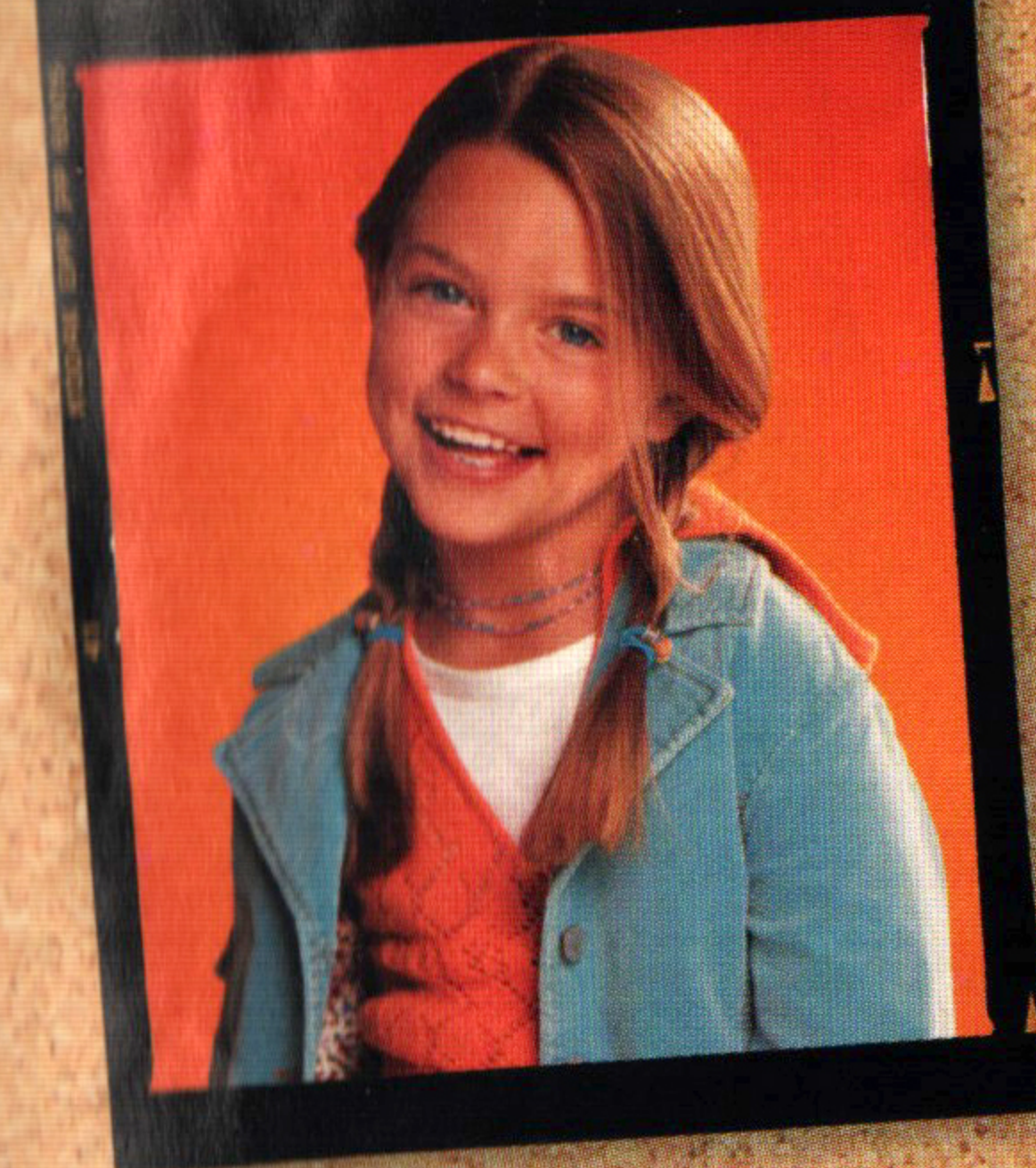
Melissa P.
Age 11, Michigan

Need advice? Got advice? Write:
Help!

American Girl magazine
8400 Fairway Place
Middleton, WI 53562



We had fun styling Bailey's hair for our photo shoot! We also had a lot of outfits to choose from. Which cover do you like the best? Go to americangirl.com and click on "Magazine" to vote for your favorite.



In our January/February issue, we told you about Jenessa L., who makes bracelets to support the troops overseas. Since her project started, she has sent 150,000 bracelets. Way to go, Jenessa!

Decorate a pumpkin online! Go to americangirl.com and click on "Magazine" to create funny pumpkin faces.



**Behind
the Scenes**

From back-to-school to Halloween, we love fall at *American Girl!*



Lindsay C., age 11, Vermont, as Pippi Longstocking

Were you crazy about the costumes we picked for this issue's contest? Go to americangirl.com and click on "Magazine" to see more of our favorites!



Kayce S., age 11, Wisconsin, tested the "School Spirit" hairdo for us and we think she looks great!



Go to americangirl.com and click on "Fun for Girls" for everything you need to start the school year off right! Make flash cards, read helpful homework tips from girls, design great report covers, and lots more.



Seasonal Sparkle

Cool decorations to make and give



Care and Share

How to be an even better friend



American Girl

Coming up in the November/December issue

For more fun, go to
americangirl.com and
click on "Magazine."
Share your opinions
in "You Said It!"

Holiday Puzzlers

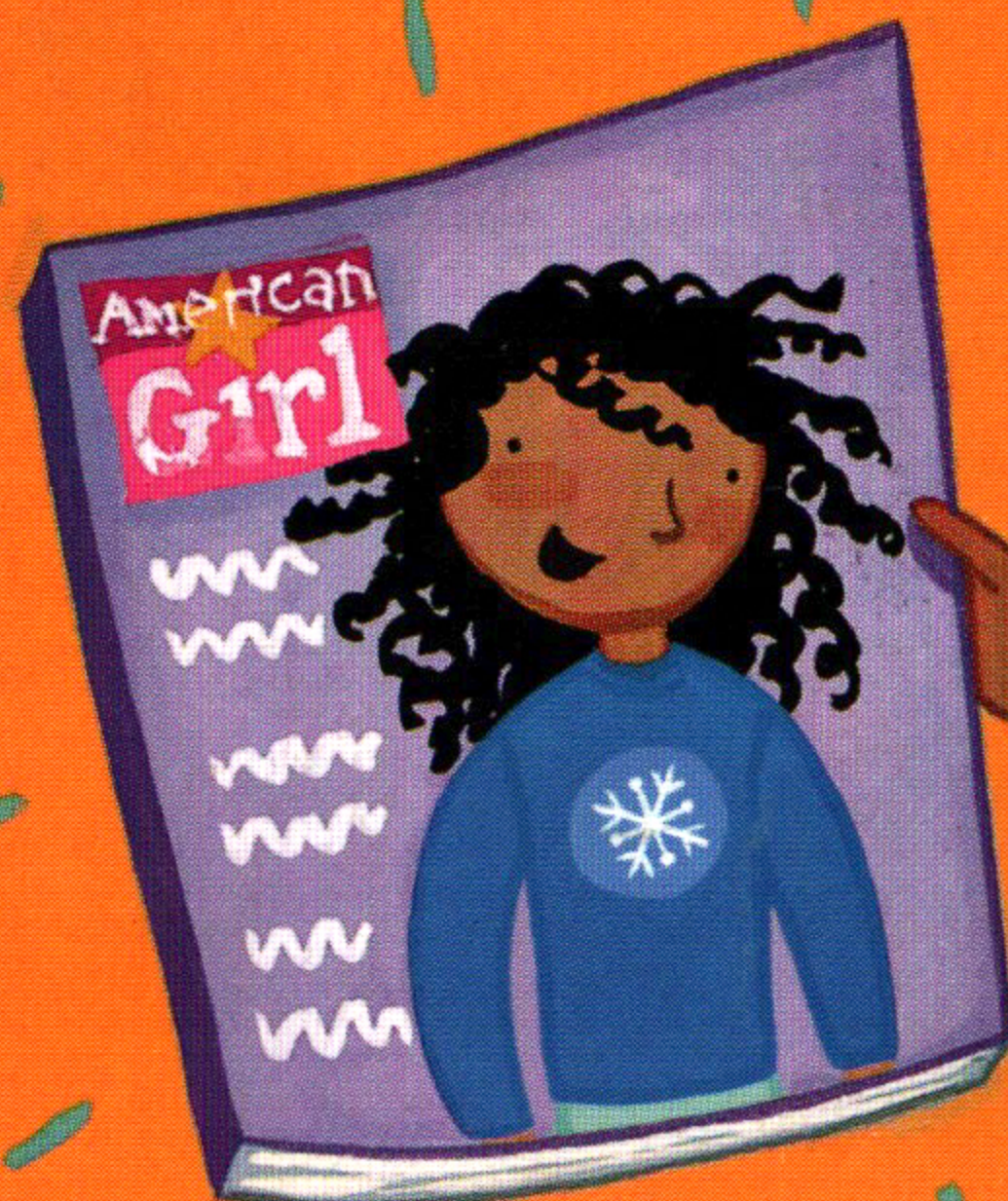
Calling all detectives! Try to solve
these three mini mysteries.

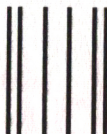
Gobble Gobble

Funny songs to sing
for Thanksgiving

Biggest Contest of the Year!

Enter for a chance to see
yourself on the cover of AG!





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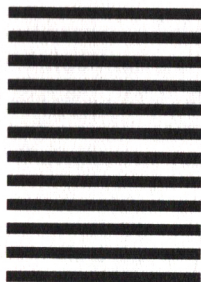
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